The New-York Times.

VOL. XI—NO. 3201. NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

No Further Developments in the Trent Affair.

Serious Aspect of the Mexican Question.

The Proposed Inquiry into the Conduct of the War.

The Provisions of Senator Wilson's Bill Relating to Sutlerships.

The New Duties on Tea, Coffee and Sugar.

Preparations for the Celebration of Christmas in the Camps.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS.

Extensive preparations have been made in nearly all the camps for the celebration of Christmas. Dinners, fêtes, balls, and games are to be the order of the day and night. Many officers have obtained three days' furlough to visit their homes. Gen. SICKLES left for New-York to-night.

Arrangements had been made by Lord LYONS to have a Christmas dinner with diplomats to-morrow, but it is probable that it will not take place, on account of the news of the death of the Prince Consort.

A TRIP DOWN THE POTOMAC.

The President and members of the Cabinet will proceed down the Potomac to-morrow, in the steamer *Pensacola*, as far as Indian Head. The Presidential party will visit Gens. HOOKER'S and SICKLES' Divisions, returning in the evening.

THE BILL RELATING TO SUTLERSHIPS.

Senator WILSON'S bill affecting sutlerships empowers the commissioned officers of each regiment to elect a sutler, without regard to the claims of present incumbents. It prescribes that the articles to be sold by the sutler shall be determined by a Board consisting of the Quartermaster, Commissary and Inspector-Generals of the army, and that none others shall be allowed to be sold; that the Quartermaster and Commissary of the regiment shall in concert with other commissioned officers, decide weekly the prices to be charged, and that the list of prices shall be sent to the Division General for his approval, who shall send it to the Inspector-General for his approval. It prescribes that any sutler charging higher than the approved rates, or who shall give false weight, or in any other way cheat the soldiers, shall upon proof of the fact before the Colonel, Quartermaster and Commissary of the regiment, be fined fifty dollars, one-half of the fine accruing to the informer, and all his property within the lines of the army shall be confiscated to the use of the Government, and shall be removed and be forever ineligible to be reappointed to the position in any regiment.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The following is a correct copy of the Tariff bill as passed both Houses:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled: That from and after the date of the passage of this act, in lieu of the duties heretofore imposed by law on articles hereinafter mentioned, there shall be levied, collected and paid on the goods, wares and merchandise herein enumerated and provided for, imported from foreign countries, the following duties and rates of duties, that is to say:

First—On all teas twenty cents per pound.

Second—Coffee, of all kinds, five cents per pound.

Third—On all raw sugar, commonly called Muscovado or brown sugar, and on sugars not advanced above No. 12, Dutch standard, by claying, boiling, clarifying or other process, and on syrup of sugar, or of sugar cane, and concentrated molasses, or concentrated melado, two cents and a half per pound; on white and clayed sugars, when advanced beyond the raw state, above No. 12, Dutch standard, by clarifying or other process, and not yet refined, three cents per pound; on refined sugars, whether loaf, lump, or pulverized, five cents per pound; on sugars after being refined, when they are tinctured, colored, or in any other way adulterated, and on sugar candy, eight cents per pound; on molasses, six cents per gallon, provided that all sirups of sugar or sugar cane, concentrated molasses, or concentrated melado, entered under the name of molasses, or any other name than sirup of sugar or of sugar cane, concentrated molasses or concentrated melado, shall be liable to forfeiture to the United States, and the same shall be forfeited.

SURGEONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate, in executive session to-day, confirmed a large number of surgeons in the regular army. Many of the appointments in that branch of the service were received, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

SERIOUS ASPECT OF THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

The Mexican imbroglio is beginning to assume a most serious aspect. The Government here addressed a friendly letter to the Ministers of England, France and Spain, informing their Governments, through them, that the United States could not join the tripartite treaty, but that arrangements were about being made between the United States and Mexico, whereby England and France would be able to get the interest on the bonds which those Governments held, and which would obviate the necessity of those two Governments, at least, in joining said expidition.

But it appears from their answer that this is not satisfactory to them. They have other designs. They say it is their purpose to restore law and order throughout that country, so that not only foreign subjects but foreign interests will be safe and under ample protection.

There is more in this than appears upon the surface, and it therefore becomes a serious question for the Government to consider. What action the Administration will take has not yet been determined. The matter is under advisement.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Joint Committee of the two Houses to inquire into the conduct of the war, had a long session Saturday. The Committee are somewhat puzzled to know where to begin their inquiries. They can only inquire into the past, and as to future operations, or what Gen. MCCLELLAN intends to do that will trouble them to find out, as he never has, nor never will disclose that to his most intimate military associates. The Committee, however, intend to institute a most rigid inquiry into several of the battles already fought, and in which our army were defeated, and if possible, to fix the responsibility where it belongs. It is believed that these investigations will create trouble between the regulars and volunteers, as it will be attempted by both branches of the service to show that the faults and inefficiency, if any shall be proved to have existed, belonged to one or the other service.

THE REBELS KILLED AT DRAINESVILLE.

Trustworthy intelligence has been received that the citizens of Drainesville had buried over one hundred rebels killed at the recent fight.

This afternoon the rebel prisoners taken at Drainesville were brought before the military authorities for examination. Their statements did not agree as to the position and strength of the rebel works. They were conveyed to the old Capitol prison.

RUNNING THE POTOMAC BLOCKADE.

Vessels are daily arriving at Alexandria and Washington, laden with forage and provisions, having successfully run the blockade.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The admirable system inaugurated in the working of the Treasury Department by Secretary CHASE, is daily becoming more apparent, and is exciting the warmest commendation of practical men. On the recent visit of the Committee of the New-York Chamber of Commerce, they passed several hours inlooking through the Department to learn the details of its management. So complete is this, that each night the results of the day's transactions in every bureau are placed before the Secretary, and though there has been but a small increase of the clerical force of the Department, so well systematized are its operations that fully five times the amount of labor is performed. The Committee asked for permission to report the results of their investigations to the Chamber of Commerce.

ABSENT.

Not more than twenty-one Senators were present at the session to-day, the majority of them, as well as many members of the House, having left the city to enjoy the holidays at home.

DECLINES.

The Attorney-General has respectfully declined to give to the Senate his opinion on a private claim, alledging precedent, as well as want of power, as a justification for a non-compliance with the request.

CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate has confirmed the following appointments of the President:

THOMAS SHANKLAND, of New-York, Consul at Port Louis, Isle of France.

ALBERT J. DERETK, of Iowa, Consul at Toronto.

ANDREW J. CARUTHERS, of the District of Columbia, Consul at Martinique.

ROBERT HALEY, of California, Consul at Manzanilla.

WM. PICKERING, of Illinois, Governor of Washington Territory.

FRANCIS A. RYAN, of Wisconsin, Register of the Public Lands at Neosho.

GEORGE N. BLACK, Receiver of the public moneys at Springfield, Ill.

JAMES B. MILLS, Receiver at Otter Trail City, Minnesota.

ASOPH WHITTLESEY, Receiver at Bayfield, Wisconsin.

ROBERT B. MCDOUGAL, Receiver at Chillicothe, Ohio.

WILLIAM F. ELKIN, Register at Springfield, Illinois.

JAMES H. LANE, of Kansas, Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

JOSEPH E. WILBUR, Postmaster of Taunton, and EDWIN SHAW, Postmaster at Fall River, Mass.

THE PROPOSED SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.

The Committee appointed by the Vice-President on the subject of laying a submarine military telegraph on our Southern coast is composed of Mr. SIMMONS, of the Finance Committee; LATHAM, of the Military Committee, and SHERMAN, of the Naval Committeee.

MEDICAL STORES FOR PORT ROYAL.

The United States Sanitary Commission has just dispatched an Inspector to Hilton Head and Beaufort with 130 boxes of hospital stores, including 1,200 blankets, hospital garments, etc., and vaccine virus for the entire force.

CONDITION OF OUR CAMPS.

Visitors at the camps in Virginia are astonished to find them laid out in such beauty and neatness, and to see that amid the trials of a soldier's life, so much care and taste is displayed in the ornamentation of their quarters. With rare exceptions the streets between the rows of tents are neatly graded, with drains on either side, and with tent drainage communicating with them. They are neatly swept daily, and the officers, as they have learned their duties, have become assiduous in looking after the cleanliness of their men. The pines which grow so thickly near every camp, furnish a means for ornamentation and arches, and devices of various kinds are artistically thrown over the streets and about the camps, producing an admirable effect upon visitors passing the camps.

Nearly every tent, too, is supplied with the means of being heated, the different plans for which were published in the TIMES about six weeks since.

THE ALEXANDRIA, LOUDON AND HAMPSHIRE RAILROAD.

The track of this road is within our lines from Alexandria to near Vienna, and several trains are daily run as high as Falls Church Station, where storehouses have been erected for the reception of Government stores, forage, etc. The road serves an excellent purpose to the Government in its transportation, saving the necessity of employing a large number of wagons and horses.

INCOMPETENCY OF VOLUNTEER CAVALRY OFFICERS.

The examination of the officers of the Volunteer Cavalry has disclosed the incompetency of a large majority to hold their positions—and this is true of the field as well as the line officers, and it is probable that many of them will be compelled to resign, and officers from the regular army will be assigned to their commands.

RETURNED.

After the battle of Bull Run a Mrs. MOORE, of Georgetown, secured a pass for herself and daughter to proceed to Manassas, to get the body of her son, who was killed at the battle, as I am informed, while fighting in the rebel ranks. Three days since the ladies returned, under a pass from Gen. JOHNSTON. They were arrested, and after being held in custody in the female prison for twelve hours, were released, yesterday, on taking the oath of allegiance.

PROMOTED.

ROBERT P. WILSON, of the First City Troop, Philadelphia, was yesterday appointed a Lieutenant of Cavalry, U. S. A.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY.

A board of medical inspectors have examined MCCALL'S, SMITH'S and PORTER'S divisions, and found them in good sanitary condition. Not one case of typhus fever was found, and but half a dozen cases of typhoid, among near forty thousand men. There are some cases of remittent bilious fever, caused by malaria from the river. The regiments from the country are found to suffer most from sickness. It is a singular fact that those regiments which the Sanitary Commission predicted would be most afflicted with disease, are most healthy, indicating that the expensive prophecies of that charitable association are of little practical value.

BOUNTY AND BACK PAY.

Applicants for bounty and back pay of deceased soldiers should remember that their claims are adjusted as rapidly as the inadequate clerical force of the Second Auditor can attend to them. In all cases when the papers presented are insufficient, the applicants are notified immediately. Those who hear nothing from their papers may know that they are correct, and their claims will be allowed as soon as practicable.

SENT HOME FOR TRIAL FOR MURDER.

A private of the Seventh Wisconsin Regiment was arrested and sent home to be tried for a murder committed in Iowa County. He was identified by means of a daguerreotype.

BLOCKADE OF THE POTOMAC.

Over thirty vessels are now waiting in the Lower Potomac for a dark night or fog, that they may pass the rebel batteries. They are mostly laden with forage, provisions and coal. Among them is the new steam ferry-boat for the Georgetown ferry.

A BODY RECOVERED.

One day last week, the body of a Virginia Lieutenant was taken from the river near Budd's Ferry by the pickets of the First Sickles Regiment, and interred with the honors of war. In his pockets were money and other valuables, which have been sent to Gen. MCCLELLAN'S headquarters.

THE BAKERY IN THE CAPITOL.

Several days ago the Senate passed a resolution of inquiry, to know by what authority a portion of the Capitol is used as a bakery. Also, what amount of injury said bakery had caused, and whether it was not expedient to have it removed. The Commissioners of Public Buildings sent the inquiry to the military authorities; and the Commissary-General, who has charge of this matter, has answered that last Spring, when the city was in great danger of being taken by the rebels, the President turned over all the public buildings to the Commanding General, to be used as he thought proper. Most of them were barricaded, and a large military force stationed in them. It was found necessary to use the basement rooms for a bakery for the army, as it had all the conveniences for that purpose, and it has been used ever since. The Commissary states, also, that it requires an outlay of $75,000, and several months' time to construct a bakery that would accommodate the army as well as the one now in operation at the Capitol; that should it be removed it would cause great trouble and loss to the Government.

THE LAKE AND RIVER DEFENCES.

The Special Committee of the House, Mr. ARNOLD Chairman, on the lakes and river defences, are thoroughly examining the whole subject as to the most judicious and economical mode of defending our internal commerce. The Committee will report in favor of fortifying some of the commanding inland points, for providing means for arming the merchant marine, and for establishment of an armory at Chicago, as the most available point to carry out the important objects in view.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Several petitions were presented praying for the emancipation of the slaves of rebels without compensation, and those of loyal masters with compensation.

Mr. GRIMES offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire into the manner in which war vessels had been fitted out. He had heard rumors of great extravagance at the navy-yards in this respect.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. HALE offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Navy for a list of the volunteers, Lieutenants, Masters, Paymasters, etc., in the navy.

Resolution adopted.

Mr. HALE presented a petition from citizens of Boston, claiming that the Freedom of the Press had been infringed. Referred.

Mr. HOWE gave notice that he would introduce a a bill to amend the Fugitive Slave law.

The Senate then went into Executive Session.

On the opening of the doors the Senate adjourned until Thursday.

AFFAIRS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC.

From Gen. Hooker's Division—The Rebels Wasting Powder and Ball—The Rebel Steamer George Page—Another New Battery.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

QUARTERS ELEVENTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS, CAMP NEAR BUDD'S FERRY, Md., Thursday, Dec. 20, 1861.

Yesterday and to-day the rebel batteries on the Potomac have been wonderfully employed in wasting powder and ball. Probably $1,000 would not replace the ammunition consumed in their pyrotechnic displays of the past forty-eight hours. Not a vessel has been disabled out of the sixty which have run their blockade within the above time, nor a soldier victimized or injured.

Early yesterday morning two steam tugs passed their batteries at Ship Point in the face of a brisk fire from the four shore batteries at Evansport, without injury. Later in the day, and during the night, the cannonading was continued upon our battery, at Mrs. BUDD'S house, and river craft. During the afternoon several excellent shots were made from our guns by Sergt. DENNIS JOHNSON, of SEYMORE'S (formerly DOUBLEDAY'S) Battery, some of them falling and exploding within the enemy's works. One of them, as seen through a powerful glass, fell into a group of about twenty-five rebels, and the cries of distress which came distinctly back across the calm river told how effectively the iron messenger had executed its mission, and a deathly silence settled down upon them which was not interrupted for many hours.

About 9 o'clock in the evening one of the tug-boats which descended the river in the morning came loudly puffing her way up the Potomac towards the batteries. As she came up the enemy could be distinctly heard confusedly manning their guns, shouting, and otherwise evincing the excitement which prevailed among them. Arriving opposite Evansport, the entire line of rebel batteries at that point opened suddenly upon the vessel, and continued firing rapidly at her until she had fairly passed beyond their range. Our battery then opened upon the rebels in its usual gallant manner, dropping shell after shell in their works with probable deadly effect, as their firing suddenly ceased.

Shortly afterwards three large schooners floated languidly up the river with the flowing tide. Not a breath of air was stirring, and they made but slow progress. The first two, however, passed without having a shot from the enemy, but on the approach of the third, the batteries opened on her, if possible, with increased fury.

The rebel steamer *George Page*, which, during a heavy fog, night before last, had run out of Chickawanzy Creek, and resumed her former quarters in Quantico Creek, ran out to the mouth of the inlet, in which she was lodged, and actively joined in the firing. She has apparently been overhauled and repaired recently, and was probably removed to Chickawanzy Creek for that purpose. She now carries at least two heavy guns. The evening previous, while changing her position, she ran boldly over to the Maryland shore, and passing up past our battery fired two shots, then turning about fired two more from the opposite side, which has led to the supposition that she carries four guns. None of her shots occasioned the slightest damage, and after executing this innocent manœuvre, she ran up into Quantico Creek. Our battery on that occasion did not reply.

The firing from the *Page*, last night, was much better executed than that of the batteries, and one of the shells passed through the leach of the schooner's foresail. The moon was shining brightly, and the vessel was nearly stationary, but with the above exception, she escaped uninjured. Several of the enemy's shells burst among our pickets, and the earth about our battery was strewed with pieces of exploded bombs. Among the unexploded shells which were eagerly sought for this morning, one was exhumed and presented to Col. BLAISDELL, weighing one hundred and twenty-four pounds, without the charge. It was an English rifle-shell, and was much larger than any hitherto found. Some of the missiles which burst in the vicinity of our battery, contained a heavy wadding of cotton faced on both sides with tar, and apparently saturated with turpentine. This substance was doubtless intended to produce a lingering fire after the bursting of the shell. It, however, failed to ignite. It is supposed to have been the intention of the rebels to fire the buildings of Mrs. BUDD, and thus destroy the headquarters of our pickets.

The enemy are engaged in erecting a new battery at Ship Point, between their first and second batteries, of an acute angle form, and have already brought it to a near state of completion. Its position is such that it will command the river at nearly all points of the compass fronting the river, and will doubtless prove a powerful auxiliary to those already occupied. For the past few days, a gang of at least one hundred and fifty negroes have been engaged in throwing up formidable breastworks at Evansport, upon a cleared hill in the rear of their southernmost battery, and the hill still further to the south, known as Chickawamzy Point, has the appearance of being recently fortified near the summit.

It is a matter of great surprise that the picket guard of the Eleventh Massachusetts Regiment, Col. BLAISDELL, escape so wonderfully the perils to which they are daily and nightly exposed. The shells of the enemy rake their entire line. The paths beaten to stony hardness by their trusty footsteps are frequently furrowed up by the missiles from the batteries, and even the rude shelters of boughs, built to ward off the bleak winds, are whirled away by the hissing balls, while all about them patter the fragments of shell which burst overhead. As yet, all have escaped uninjured.

ARGUS.

AFFAIRS AT FORTRESS MONROE.

The Skirmish Near Newmarket Bridge—A Number of the Enemy Killed and Wounded—A Company of Negroes Engaged—Exchange of Prisoners, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, Monday, Dec. 23, *via* BALTIMORE, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The skirmish yesterday was a slight affair.

Two companies of the Twentieth New-York Regiment started from Newport's News at 9 o'clock this morning, and proceeded to Newmarket Bridge to look for a man who had been lost in the woods on the day before.

As we hear, while near the bridge they found themselves surrounded by rebel cavalry and infantry, numbering seven hundred men, but succeeded in cutting their way out without loss.

Reinforcements were sent for to Camp Hamilton, and the remainder of the regiment was sent forward.

The Naval Brigade, under command of Col. WARDROP, was also under arms, and proceeded as far as Hampton Bridge. Four companies of cavalry were also ordered out, but their services were not required.

Six of the Twentieth Regiment were slightly wounded. Ten of the enemy are known to have been killed, and a number wounded. Seven dead bodies were found this morning; one was that of an officer, and was taken to Newport's News. He wore buttons lettered "A. M. M." perhaps the "Alabama Minute Men," and his name is supposed to have been JOHN HAWKINS.

It is reported that a whole company of negroes was engaged, and two of our men are known to have been shot by them.

Gen. MANSFIELD and acting Brig.-Gen. WEBER highly complimented the troops engaged for their coolness and bravery.

The bark *Island City* arrived here last night, from Boston, with 249 prisoners of war, released from Fort Warren, who are to be exchanged for an equal number of our troops, how held at Richmond. The steamboat *George Washington* took them to Craney Island this afternoon under a flag of truce.

Mrs. BROWN, two daughters and servant, of Missouri, and Mrs. INGERSOLL, of Michigan, were also passengers for the South.

A large number of letters and several boxes of clothing for our prisoners of war, were also sent over. The Richmond prisoners are expected here in a day or two.

The gunboat *Young Rover*, which is stationed at the mouth of York River, reports an extensive conflagration in Yorktown about a week since.

The Chapel tent, 42 by 28 feet, which was sent to the Sixteenth Massachusetts Regiment, by their friends in Boston, was dedicated yesterday afternoon with services, in which the Chaplains of all denominations participated.

The gunboat *Cœur De Lion* arrived from the Potomac last night, with four launches in tow.

The first rain for about three weeks fell last night. The wells are quite dry.

AFFAIRS ON THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Probable Withdrawal of the Rebels from the Vicinity of Williamsport—Telegraphic Communication with Romney—Gen. Kelley's Advance at Hancock, &c.

WILLIAMSPORT, Sunday, Dec. 22.

From personal observation your correspondent is convinced that the rebel troops which have been threatening this point were not, at the utmost extent, over 7,000 in number, and not over four pieces of artillery have been seen here within the past week. The militia, which might have numbered 1,500, refused, from the first, to cross the river, and on two occasions would not approach nearer than a mile.

The mill owned by the COLSTONS, at the south end of Dam No. 5, was set on fire on Thursday night by Capt. HAMPTON, of the Pittsburgh Light Battery, attached to the First Virginia Regiment, and six men, volunteers, who went over in three skiffs. They found in the mill, besides the articles before mentioned, several shells, which were probably to have been sent over the next day.

On Friday the elegant brick residence of the COLSTONS, situated a hundred yards from the mill, was seen to be on fire, but a party of the First Virginia went over and extinguished it; after which they ransacked the out-buildings and brought over a considerable amount of plunder, such as overcoats, picket ropes, leggings, axes, beside a supply of property.

The enemy, excepting a few solitary sentinels posted on the distant hills, were not seen at this point until 2½ P. M., when they brought in sight their 12-pound Parrott gun, and threw a few shells toward the camp of the First Maryland, which had succeeded to the Fifth Connecticut, then *en route* for Hancock. A 10-pound Parrott gun, of MATTHEW'S Pennsylvania battery, soon drove them out of sight. There was no loss on our side, and probably but slight loss on the other side, owing to the safe distance at which their gun was stationed.

While these things were in progress, a troop of rebel cavalry made their appearance opposite Williamsport, about one mile from the river. They remained in full view for several hours, going through a drill for the benefit of the spectators.

About noon a regiment of cavalry and another of infantry made their appearance near the ford at the Four Locks, two miles above Dam No. 5; but, not liking the appearance of Col. KENLEY'S preparations, they subsequently withdrew without making any demonstration.

In the afternoon information reached Col. LEONARD that the main body of the enemy were, with their wagons and boats, concentrating near Falling Waters, five miles from Dam No. 5, on the Virginia side, but owing to the curves in the river fifteen miles between those points and our side, Col. LEONARD immediately reinforced his pickets at the former point, keeping a section of battery and the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania as a reserve. A few shells were exchanged, and the enemy retreated, encamping out of sight, beyond the range of our Parrott guns.

Intelligence yesterday from the other side goes to show that the rebel commander, having been foiled in all his attempts, withdrew his forces that morning toward Martinsburgh, leaving only three or four companies as pickets, but not taking away his wagons and boats. All was comparatively quiet during the day.

HANCOCK, Dec. 20.

The Thirty-ninth Illinois, having received their arms, are now here, posted in a strong position, anxiously awaiting an opportunity to repel the enemy, or cooperate with Gen. KELLY'S advance Guard, which now extends here, besides guarding the railroad all the way from Cumberland. The Fifth Connecticut and KNAPP'S Battery are expected here in a day or two.

WILLIAMSPORT, Saturday, Dec. 21.

This morning a man, named J. B. WHARTON, residing at Clear Spring, approached one of the river pickets and offered him $25 to carry a dispatch to the other side. The soldier made the fact known to Col. LEONARD, who had him arrested, but not till he had destroyed the dispatch. He is connected by marriage with Ex-Senator MASON, now in Fort Warren. Col. LEONARD holds him as a spy.

This town has been under martial law for several months. Lieut. JOHN G. HOVEY, of Company B, Massachusetts Thirteenth, is the Provost-Marshal. Among the political prisoners are R. D. SHEPHERD, of Shepardstown, son-in-law of ALEXANDER BOTELER; ABRAHAM SHEPARD, a Captain in the rebel army, and a considerable number of civil officers of Morgan County, who undertook to execute the rebel laws.

Telegraphic communications are now received from Romney in four hours, including twenty miles of horse transportation. In a few days the wires will connect.

LANDW'S Brigade—the First Virginia Regiment—consists of three companies of cavalry, now with Gen. KELLY, four companies of infantry, and two companies of artillery, under Col. LEONARD. The latter have volunteered to act as riflemen until their batteries are received.

A specimen of forced marching occurred Wednesday night. Col. HENLY'S First Maryland Regiment left their camp near Frederick at 12 o'clock, and arrived here at 10 A. M. on Thursday morning—a distance of nearly 28 miles. They stopped four times only on the route, resting fifteen minutes on each occasion.

DAM No. 4, Sunday, Dec. 22.

JAMES GREENWOOD, a staunch Unionist, reports that there is but one guerilla company left to keep guard on the Neck opposite, between this place and Falling Waters, four miles above. The remainder left for Martinsburgh Saturday morning, excepting the wagons containing the boats. Mr. GREENWOOD'S residence is a mile back of the Dam, in Virginia, where his family still reside. To his vigilance and patriotism are attributed the successful repulses of the enemy at this point. He is untiring in exertions to give timely notice to our authorities of any movements of the enemy in this direction. He states that this guerilla company are always on the go, showing themselves at point after point, to convey the impression that the enemy have a large force there.

A finely finished coffin was seen *en route* from Martinsburgh to Dam No. 5, on Thursday, leading to the impression that some officer of rank had been killed there.

SYLVESTER STONEBRAKER, a resident of this precinct, but who was arrested and made to take the oath of allegiance by Gen. NEGLEY, last Summer, made his escape into Virginia, near this point, last night. It is stated that it was this man, who gave the enemy intelligence that a large force under Gen. BANKS was preparing to cross at Williamsport and march upon Winchester, and probably inducing JACKSON to make the recent demonstration upon Williamsport.

Reports from Union men on the other side state that during the gallant repulse of last Tuesday by two companies of the Indiana Twelfth at this place, eight rebels were killed outright, and twelve wounded. It will be recollected that the enemy had two small guns, and made an attack on our pickets there, who with their rifles compelled the former to beat a hasty retreat. This occurred at the time of the capture of Capt. WILLIAMS and seven men of the Twelfth Indiana. The attacking force comprised detachments from Col. ASHBY'S command, under Captains HENDERSON, MASON and BAYLOR.

MERCERSVILLE, (on the river four miles below Dam No. 5,) Sunday, Dec. 22.

This little hamlet is populated by persons engaged in the canal trade, but being, without an exception, strong Unionists, threats have been made by the enemy to destroy their habitations, causing considerable anxiety. This place is closely watched by the Indiana boys.

Last night the large barn occupied by JOHN E. COVODE, but owned by SAMUEL STONEBRAKER, of Baltimore, was fired by an incendiary and consumed, with nearly all its contents, including six horses, five cows, several tons of hay, 500 bushels of wheat, hogs, agricultural implements, wagons, harness, &c. Loss, $12,000 to $15,000. Mr. COVODE is a Unionist, and was absent from home at the time.

SHARPSBURGH, Sunday, Dec. 22.

Capt. HOWE'S battery of the Fourth Regular Artillery, arrived here to-night, *en route* for Washington. The men are perfect war dogs in appearance, having performed the most arduous duty under Gen. KELLY, in Western Virginia.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

Relief for the Charleston Sufferers—Violence in Richmond—Rebel Exaggerations of Late Battles—Gen. Phelps' Proclamation.

CHICAGO, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The Memphis *Appeal*, of the 19th, has the following:

"A Richmond correspondent says, in addition to the $250,000 appropriated by the Confederate Congress for the relief of the Charleston sufferers, the Legislature of Virginia will appropriate $200,000. Collections also were taken up in all the Churches on the 15th inst.

The correspondent says to such a frightful extent has violence increased in Richmond that the city bids fair to become as infamous as even Baltimore or Naples was. Shootings and stabbings are every-day occurrences."

The Memphis *Appeal* publishes telegrapic reports of the foreign news, and remarks, "What will be the course of the trembling tyrant at Washington we are unable to say, but presume he and his astute advisers will refuse to take up the gauntlet so fearlessly offered by Great Britain, and thinks that the action of the Federal Government will engender such a state of sentiment in France and England, as to secure the speedy recognition of Southern independence."

The rebel account of the Green River fight places the National loss at 95 killed, and one mortally wounded. The same exaggeration characterizes the report of the battle at Camp Alleghany, in Western Virginia. Gen. MILROY is reported killed. The National loss is set down at 500. The rebels acknowledge a loss of 20 killed, and 27 wounded.

The *Appeal* rejoices at the movements of the Radical Abolitionists in Congress, and, speaking of the emancipation schemes of Messrs. STEVENS, BINGHAM, SHERMAN and others, it says: "Our people rather like this species of legislation, inasmuch as it wins victories for us which, with the bayonet and bullet, will be hard to achieve."

The Fort Smith *News* of the 12th has discouraging news from the Indian country. The Creeks, Cherokees and Seminoles are deserting the cause, and large numbers have joined OPTHLEYHOLO, who is encamped on the Big Bend of the Arkansas with 4,000 Indians well armed with rifles, revolvers and knives, and naked to the waist. To oppose this force the rebels had a small force, under Col. COOPER, who was clamorous for reinforcements. A battle is daily expected, as the two armies are only a few miles apart.

The New-Orleans *Delta* of the 12th says that the naval commander of the National fleet forbade the transmission of Gen. PHELPS' proclamation, and threatened to fire into any boat that attempted to carry it.

The Fort Smith *News* of the 12th learned from the telegraph operator at Fayetteville that about 100 Union men had been arrested in Madison and Carroll Counties.

The Nashville *Union* of the 12th has the gratifying assurance that LINCOLN'S message had produced a complete revolution among Union men.

The Georgia Legislature appropriated $100,000 for the relief of the Charleston sufferers.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN QUESTION.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA AT THIS PORT.

OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Question of War or No War to be Settled at Washington.

EFFECT OF GEN. SCOTT'S LETTER.

Friendly Attitude of the French Government.

MORE TROOPS FOR CANADA.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Royal Mail steamer *America*, which left Liverpool at 11 A. M. on the 7th and Queenstown on the 8th inst., arrived here yesterday morning.

Her advices were forwarded from Halifax at unusual length, and by subsequent arrivals we have intelligence a week later.

On the 16th, off Cape Race, the *America* saw the news-boat of the Associated Press, and threw the news can over.

The late Queenstown dispatches destined for the *America*, were not put on board the ship.

Mrs. EUSTACE, wife of the Secretary of Mr. SLIDELL, the Confederate States Envoy, had arrived in Paris for London. Mrs. SLIDELL and her daughters were expected in a few days.

At the meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on the 2d, letters from Mr. HORSFALL, M. P., and Mr. COBDEN, M. P., were read, suggesting the desirableness that all questions connected with the blockade and the search of the *Trent*, should be well discussed by the Chamber of Commerce, especially that of Liverpool, before the meeting of Parliament. The letters were referred to a Committee for early consideration and report.

The municipal administration of Lyons have voted a considerable sum for the relief of the operatives who have been thrown out of work wholly or in part owing to the war in America. A performance is also to be given at the theatre for their benefit, and it has also been proposed to open an exhibition of paintings, the receipts for which are to be applied to the same purpose.

L'Opinion Nationale, of Paris, stated recently that it was the intention of SANTANA to turn his arms against Spain, and resume possession of that part of the Island of San Domingo which he had delivered up, or rather sold to her. Vexation and disappointment that his first act of treason was not sufficiently rewarded, are said to have caused this new resolution. *L'Indépendance Belge*, which at first doubted the truth of the news, now announces that the statement is partially confirmed by a letter from Port-au-Prince, the capital of the republican part of the island. It is thought there that SANTANA does intend to raise the inhabitants against the Spaniards, and his movements are, therefore, very closely watched.

Letters from Havre state that the American (Federal) shipping in that port was thrown into a state of consternation by the report of the presence of Confederate privateers in the Channel, coupled with the appearance in the roadstead of two large clippers, who, on being signalled, did not make their number, but stood out to sea again.

The paddle steamer *Adriatic*, now lying in the docks at Southampton, has been measured to ascertain her capacity for carrying troops, preparatory, as is supposed, to her being chartered for troop service. She will take from 700 to 1,000 men. This vessel, it will be remembered, was formerly one of the Collins' line, and was last year purchased by the Galway Company to run on their line to and from New-York. It is reported that one or two other large steamers at Southampton are likely to be chartered for the purpose of conveying reinforcements to Canada.

THE WAR PANIC IN ENGLAND.

The Real English Sentiment Adverse to War—The Free Policy of the United States—Raptures of the Secessionists, &c., &c.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 7, 1861.

A weary, anxious, troubled week. In spite of the assurance that the Government had not authorized the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners the war fever has been steadily acquiring strength, and the Stock market has feverishly risen and fallen, like a troubled conscience, tending always downward. No word is now spoken in favor of the North except in subdued tones by those who have more of the American than of the English in their education. Every day brings its new list of war-measures taken by the Government, and the workmen in their arsenals are employed day and night, as in a time of actual war. Business men are preparing for the storm; industry is slackened; prices fall; everything shows that the English nation expects a serious shock, and that it will not seek to avoid it. Of the swarms of wild rumors which have been flying about and destroying all quiet and coolness, it is hardly worth while to mention any, for they are, in all probability all false, and only invented to serve the purpose of the moment. At one time it is asserted that Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL have already been hung—then, that the *Warrior* is to go out to bring back Lord LYONS—then, that Lord PALMERSTON is in favor of declaring immediate war—then, that forty-eight hours have been allowed to our Government for a decision. All such rumors are pure invention. There is nothing to show that the Ministry have taken any such steps, and *I am told on good authority that their instructions to Lord Lyons have been framed as cautiously as could be wished.* Still, there can no longer be a doubt that there is a party here who now seem to have the lead, who are bent upon forcing a war, with the expectation of breaking America down, and putting an end to our Republican institutions. It is not true, however, that this party is the majority of the nation. On the contrary, if, by some astounding good luck, the next steamer were to bring Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL to these shores, I am confident that the American party could recover their ascendency and that a reaction would take place which would carry us through our internal troubles triumphantly. At present, however, the Southern side are using their advantage with all the energy they can, and the Confederate flag is to be seen flying side by side with our own on the Adelphi Theatre in the Strand, where Mr. DION BOUCICAULT is playing the "Octoroon;" while ragged boys are peddling the glorious emblem of Slavery at a penny a-piece, on the steps of Exeter Hall. *Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.* Before many weeks are over we shall perhaps see a British army repressing a slave insurrection, and British officers and troops detailed on overseer duty.

This is, however, looking too far forward. All that has happened as yet is only what I have many times mentioned as our chief danger here—greater than the cotton famine or the tariff. The War Party in England has been for a long time growing continually stronger; and though, in the ordinary course of things, some time would still have elapsed before it could have become really powerful, its capabilities

or mischief were still very great. Its leaders have now gained a weapon which has given them at once the lead in public affairs. They have excited popular feeling to a stupid frenzy, and actually dictate terms to the British Government. But this is a state of things which cannot last, unless fuel is continually provided; and, as any man of common sense must feel that the question of a war with England is for America, at this time, not to be even discussed, without prejudice to the independence of the South—as every man who pretends to common sanity must recognise as those well when he sees it, and not try soberly to drink up a river, or to mop out the Atlantic—it is but to presume that our Government will, if they can, submit to a good deal of insult before they will begin a contest precisely on those terms on which the one may wishes to fight. Especially it is not to be supposed that our people will want to go to war in defence of that very barbarous and violent principle which they have gained the most honorable laurels that yet crown their history by persistently and, most energetically, resisting.

In attempting, then, to represent as faithfully as I know how, the state of opinion among our friends in England, I must start from the supposition that *every American whose judgment is worth having* is wholly against a war. Undoubtedly *a majority of the British Ministry and of the commercial classes of the nation are also against a war.* The apparent hurry in providing for it is partly a concession to popular feeling, and partly to show us that the thing is in earnest. After the first shock and the despair which accompanied the outbreak of anger, a feeling of hope has arisen, though, as yet, it has acquired no great strength, and has been studiously resisted by the *Times* and its sublimities. One proposition has gained many supporters here already. It is that which Gen. Scott has proposed, that the two Governments should seize this opportunity to settle this whole question of search and neutral rights on the basis which America has always so earnestly advocated; and that, as a result of this settlement, in strict *accordance with American principles, the four Confederates should be released and given up to the custody of Great Britain.*

It is no business of mine to argue on this question. If these are the best terms we can get, we ought to take them. This is reason enough. As to the effect of such a proposition here, I believe I can speak with some confidence of being right. It is not to be denied that, at present, the English are nearly unanimous in demanding that the reparation should precede any other steps, and that nothing whatever should be done before the surrender of the prisoners. In their present state of mind it is useless to look for anything better than this from here. But the effect of the offer would be very advantageous in many ways, even though it were declined. In the first place it would place America in the right in the eyes of the world, and in harmony with her own record. In the second it would raise up our party here very much, and would perhaps so strengthen it as to make it very hazardous for the Ministry to proceed at once to hostile measures. There would always be an opportunity for negotiation, and if we can weather the next six weeks or so in safety, people will cool down and be in a humor to talk common sense. One thing is certain, and useless to discuss. The surrender of the men must be the *sine qua non* of any proposition or hope of peace. This being the case, and it being equally true that our own recorded principles are wholly contrary to their retention, it seems to be the part of true patriots to yield the point frankly and fairly, and to call upon England in the same enlightened spirit, to meet us half way.

If this can be managed, there is a fair chance of our clearing ourselves. If, not, we must make up our minds not only to the independence of the South, but to a war with England which will destroy our commerce, ruin our embowed cities, impoverish the country, and can lead to no good results.

Such is the view which our friends here take of this matter; a view not confined to any one class, but to all of whom I have heard the opinions expressed. Loyal Americans are now in a most unpleasant situation here, and it is not to be wondered at that they should want at least to see their country put herself in the right before taking any other step. Meanwhile some strange frenzy seems to have seized the English nation. The phlegmatic and dogmatic Englishman has been dragged into a state of literal madness, and though not actually riotous, he has lost all his power of self-control. He is seldom well-informed on any but English subjects looked at from a national point of view; he is often sullen, dogged, and unsocial. But in these December days it is worse than all this; it is sheer, downright national insanity, cropping out in the characteristic forms in which his greatness and weakness always proclaims itself. It is Ajax raving about the lost armor and the slight he has suffered; stupid, brutal Ajax, self-confident and deaf to reason or entreaty. No one now will consent to argue. No one will accept the commonest rules of morality or the clearest maxims of law. For the sake of appearances they still claim to have the law on their side, but in reality, law or no law, they were determined not to submit to the insult. Right or wrong, the United States must recede. Right or wrong Ajax will blunder ahead. Lord STOWELL is of all of a sudden "antiquated." International law is only to be followed so long as it coincides with national interests. We Americans hear to our supreme astonishment what in ordinary times would give us the liveliest pleasure, that the United States were wholly in the right about the War of 1812, and Great Britain as completely in the wrong; an acknowledgment that must cause the bones of the forgotten heroes of the Hartford Convention to rattle ironic applause from their coffins, and their former owners pray forgiveness from the shade of MADISON. Never was such unanimity known in England. None such existed before the war with Russia, nor has the feeling against Austria or France ever compared in intensity or determination to that which now rages against us. It would be more creditable, perhaps, to the nation, if she had chosen a time for such a demonstration when her ancient and dreaded rival had been rejoicing in her former strength.

Meanwhile, the Secessionists are in raptures. They have cast off even the last appearance of doubt, and swagger up and down, boasting of their certain triumph. The *Nashville* has gone into dock at Southampton, and her commander declares that she will be ready for service about the 1st of January. Their calculation is that England will have recognized them by that time, and that they will obtain their armament. The prohibition of the export of arms, in the like manner, has had only the effect to stimulate their purchases. They calculate that England will soon be their ally, and that then they can export at their leisure.

Meanwhile, the loyalists wait in silence for their Government to speak.

THE FRENCH VIEW OF THE QUESTION.

A Semi-Official Indication—The French Unfriendly to the United States—Gen. Scott's Letter—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, Friday, Dec. 6, 1861.

Within a few years no event has so exclusively occupied the attention of the public and the press in France, as what is here called the Anglo-American conflict. It is the one sole subject of conversation in financial and commercial circles, and the columns of the Press are one-half given up to it.

From such an extensive discussion of the subject, it would be curious if we could not draw a tolerably exact estimate of the position the French people and Goverment intend to occupy in regard to it. I am bound therefore to repeat here what I said in my last letter, that thus far there is no sign of any sympathy with the American Government in the act it had committed. As to how far French sympathy for the English Government in this conflict may go, I believe M. DE LA GUERRONIERE, in an article signed M. DE LA PONTERIE, (a *nom de plume*,) and published last evening in the *Patrie*, has exactly pointed out. In this article of the imperialist publicist, it is said, that with the insult which the United States have just offered to the British flag, France has nothing to do; it is a personal matter between the two Governments, and Great Britain is perfectly competent to take care of her own honor. But—and the *but* is an all important one—the first act of Great Britain, he says, after the declaration of war, will be to recognize the independence of the seceded States, and then it will become the duty of France and the European States, whose interests, like he own, are suffering by the intestine strife in America to follow the example of England, and recognize those States. With the recognition, in the sense in which it is here spoken of, comes the liberation of the Southern ports and the resumption of trade between Europe and those ports.

From all the evidence I have been able to collect, these sentiments of M. DE LA GUERRONIERE are those of the French Government at the present moment, and it is best not to anticipate any deviation from them.

If I were asked the reason of this French sympathy for the English Government in the present conflict, I should say that it was in the first place because the French as a military nation have always opposed this extended use of the right of search and seizure, and in the next place because they profess just now to be fatigued with the long continued civil war in America. The explanation is not to be found in any new born love for the English, nor in the very intimate commercial relations which now exist between the two countries, although this latter has contributed something toward a better understanding between the two nations; it is because the French believe that the act of Capt. WILKES was one which ought not to be allowed to gain admission into the international code, because they believe that even if England had on former occasions committed outrages of the same character, it is none the less an unjustifiable and dangerous example which must be firmly rejected as indefensible; because, furthermore, they regard the seizure of two harmless passengers, harmless for all the good they could do in Europe, and to whom the French only give the rank of conspirators, as utterly foolish and out of all proportion to the evil their seizure will bring; and finally, because French commerce is suffering and the Government would gladly see the American Government yield so inadmissible a point to England, so as to hasten the termination of the civil war.

Aside from what may be the official action of the French Government, it is not less curious and instructive to remark the tone and the general course of the French Press. A general irritation, or worse, a bad feeling, everywhere prevails against us. It is a remarkable and significant fact that the Press both here and in London has dealt more in "glittering generalities" than in arguments—more in denunciations of the American Government than in attempts to refute the law points which dictated the seizure. Is this disposition to glide over the regular discussion of the subject to be attributed to the fact that the outrage is too palpable a violation of the rights of neutrals to require discussion, or to the fact that England desires a war and does not care to stop to discuss the legal points?

I have just said that everywhere in the French Press there was a bad feeling against us, but I should make exceptions in favor of two or three writers, who, while they condemn the seizure of MASON and SLIDELL as irregular in form, and as injudicious and totally useless, yet stand up in favor of discussion on the legal point, and resist the apparently arbitrary manner in which England proposes to settle it. Of these are the *Journal des Débats*, the *Siècle*, and a prominent correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge*, M. PAUL FOUCHER.

Several leading men of the liberal school of politics here, with whom I have conversed on the subject, plead with earnestness against a war with England. They oppose with energy such an extended use of the right of search as that involved in the seizure of Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL, but they say the American Government must seek some honorable way of settling the difficulty, for the monarchical and aristocratic politicians of Europe will chuckle over a war between the two great free nations who are the beacon-light and hope of liberal Europe. Moreover, these gentlemen agree in the opinion, that the difficulty will not be so great to overcome as appears on the surface, for they believe that the present warlike preparations in England are in part a manifestation, a parade, intended as much for Europe as for America. They believe that England is trying to perfect a European coalition against France, and that she is delighted at finding such a pretext as a war with a maritime Power which she now conceives to be weak, so as to enable her to complete her imniense armaments without exciting the jealousy of France. She was anxious, too, to see what her own force really was, and how ready her people were to come into the field.

The French liberals think the United States had better accede to any reasonable demand on the part of England, and proceed to finish up the glorious and noble work they have in hand, in preserving and consolidating their own Government, and in limiting the institution of Slavery. While they are doing this, these same liberals will push their own Government to demand a mediation, if necessary, or if the difficulty be settled without a mediation, then they will urge the necessity of an international congress to settle the disputed point upon a basis which will prevent future misunderstandings of a similar nature.

The *Moniteur*, which has, throughout this discussion, maintained a strict neutrality, has, at the same time, counseled moderation, and held out a hope that the difficulty might be settled without a resort to arms. This morning this paper hopes that the conflict may be settled in such a way as to bring about a final decision between the nations as to the law between belligerents and neutrals—an observation which clearly looks to a French mediation.

For two or three days the French journals, in the excitement of the moment concerning the affair on board the *Trent*, sought to aggravate the act of the *San Jacinto* in running foul of a French vessel in the Spanish waters; but the Government has issued orders to the Press not to seek to magnify the affair.

The letter of Gen. SCOTT has had a good effect in moderating the extravagances of certain journals and certain leading stock-brokers, who were absolutely wild on the subject. The letter was first published by request in the *Constitutionnel*; it was then copied voluntarily into the other papers, and only this morning appears in the official journal, where it was finally published by request of the Americans.

Gen. SCOTT and Mr. DAYTON have an interview today with the Prince NAPOLEON, at the Palais Royal. The Emperor does not come to the Tuileries till Sunday, and it is probable that the first interview between his Majesty and the General will not take place before Monday or Tuesday. Gen. SCOTT's health is so much improved that he has recovered much of his former activity.

There was a Cabinet Council yesterday at Compiégne, to which was joined a meeting of the Council of Regency, composing what is now called a Grand Council of the Empire, to discuss the line of conduct the Government should follow in the threatened rupture between England and the United States. Nothing has leaked out of the nature of the decision arrived at, but it is probable the American Minister will learn something about it to-day from the Prince NAPOLEON, in time to inform the Government at Washington by this steamer.

The *Arago*, on her passage home next week, will carry six rifled cannon and small arms for two hundred men. Capt. PEGRAM, of the *Nashville*, however, has very condescendingly informed the public that he does not intend to attack the *Arago*. So it has come at last to this, that we live by the sufferance of these gentlemen of the Southern Confederacy!

MALAKOFF.

THE AFFAIR OF THE TRENT.

RECEPTION OF GEN. SCOTT'S LETTER.

From the London News.

Gen. SCOTT'S temperate and manly letter is almost the only authoritative expression of American feeling we have yet had on the exciting question now at issue between the two countries. It is scarcely surprising that such a document should have rather disconcerted the calculations of those who, under the influence of strongly biased feeling, had virtually decided beforehand the course which the Washington Cabinet would pursue in this grave emergency. It was instructive, for example, to notice the ludicrous alarm which Lord MALMESBURY's organ yesterday betrayed lest the General's letter should contribute in any way towards bringing us nearer to peace, and the nervous alacrity with which it hastened to assure its readers that there was no ground whatever for such a suspicion. This alarm is nevertheless not altogether unfounded. The voice of an upright, honorable man like Gen. SCOTT, who through a long career has served his country in the most difficult and responsible posts, will be listened to with respect, and every paragraph of his letter breathes an earnest desire for peace. It is true he writes rather as an enlightened and responsible citizen than as a jurist or politician, and his letter is accordingly more valuable for the broad and calm view it takes of affairs than for any specific opinions expressed on the points of law. But there is no ground for representing that Gen. SCOTT regards the act which threatens the peace of the two countries as a "very small affair," or for assuming that because he refers to the legal points in dispute as matters for consideration he necessarily denies the justice of our claim for reparation. Our outraged honor must be satisfied, and no one knows this better than Gen. SCOTT. *But we imagine that the communications between our own Government and the Washington Cabinet are conducted according to the usages of civilized nations. To suppose the contrary would be a deep and gratuitous injustice to the responsible advisers of the Crown.* But while we require and expect a practical result from the application to the Washington Cabinet which Lord LYONS is instructed to make, *we do not imagine that the British Government will arrogate to themselves the right of refusing to listen to what may be urged at Washington on points of law.* The law under discussion is a law for both countries, and each Government, therefore, has an interest in receiving the representations of the other.

The part of Gen. SCOTT's letter which refers to the future is too important to be overlooked. He is perfectly right in intimating that this is the very opportunity for reviewing the Law of Nations as it affects the rights of neutrals. The immediate question with regard to the seizure on board the *Trent* must, of course, be settled first. But the point of honor once satisfied, the duty of both Governments and both nations is to look forward rather than backward. The past is undoubtedly but too full of violent precedents, overbearing claims, and the assertion of rights which no laws ought to recognize and no civilized nations tolerate. In all great naval wars neutrals have not only been sufferers, but they have often suffered to an extent that is utterly unjustifiable. The right of search has been wantonly abused, to the injury of neutral shipping and the discouragement of neutral commerce. *It is high time that these abuses were finally corrected by a complete revision of the law relating to the rights of neutrals.* Gen. SCOTT urges this point with great force. He says, truly enough, that the United States Government has been striving to accomplish this necessary revision for more than fifty years—from the beginning of the century, in fact. The time is surely come, as he suggests, for making some attempt to establish these rights—the rights of neutrals—on a just, humane and philosophic basis." And the violent act of Capt. WILKES may in the end be an advantage to both countries, if it issues in a united effort to bring this part of our international code more into harmony with the requirements of civilization, and the augmented wants of a busy and commercial age.

From the London Globe.

We may or may not be willing to enter into negotiations to place the right of search on a new footing, but it is not the time to talk of such negotiations when we are suffering from a grievous wrong. First, restore the men, and then make your propositions. No doubt Gen. SCOTT intends by his letter to hold out an olive-branch to this country. He was not prepared, nor was any American, for the feeling which Capt. WILKES' act has roused in England. We accept his good intention; *we have certainly no desire to quarrel with the North*; but the men who, having placed themselves under the protection of our flag, were torn from it, must be forthwith returned.

RESPONSE OF AN ENGLISH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

To the Editor of the London Star:

SIR: The opportune publication of Gen. SCOTT's letter in your issue of this evening will, I think, go far to tranquilize the public mind. It is now the fashion to decry and depreciate the American character and institutions, but from some acquaintance therewith I shall be egregiously deceived if a perfectly satisfactory arrangement be not come to with regard to the *Trent* affair. We who wish to cherish the most friendly relations with a kindred people have told them that they are in the wrong. And we have added that we will preserve the right of asylum inviolate, and that the common sense of England rejects with abhorrence a cant wholly disavows the justice or legal efficacy of precedents taken from that dismal and disgraceful era when the British people groaned under the old flagitious Tory rule. The Americans will know that we repudiate the brutal acts and atrocious doings of those days, although, as is the case, the Secretary at War in those bad times is now our Prime Minister.

The most suspicious symptom of the prevailing war fevers that it rages fiercest with those who were content, on the requisition of the Emperor NAPOLEON, to violate the right of asylum by rendering the sojourn here of any obnoxious exile wholly impossible. These are the men who are now overflowing with wrath, and who declare that war is inevitable. The American Government and people are too sagacious to come to blows with us about the *Trent* affair, because they will be—if they are not already—convinced that they are in the wrong. When America engages in hostilities with England, she will take good care to be in the right, and to have the public opinion of Europe in her favor. I pray God that that time may not be near at hand, but I am constrained to think that it is.

It is utterly absurd to suppose that the American Government will not make any reasonable *amende* and reparation for the act of Capt. WILKES. *But I believe this is the last thing that our Government wants. It would prefer that all redress and reparation should be obstinately denied.* This is no rash assertion, but is the legitimate deduction from acts patent to all. *For is it not well known that, for some time past, the Emperor of the French has urged on our Government the expediency of a joint recognition of the Slave Confederation.* Let not the people of this country be deceived by our thimble-rig politicians. *The best informed well know that the Trent affair will lead to no conflict with America.* The early recognition of the Slave Confederation might and most likely would. To be prepared for this contingency do we owe the mighty preparations and warlike fervor which is now so fiercely fanned by the Pro-Slavery party, aided by the Government hacks, greedy jobbers, credulous fools, and, worse than all, by a venal Press. I much mistake the temper of the people of these isles if they do not resent, as a ten-thousand fold greater insult than the *Trent* outrage, the sight of their glorious red-cross flag intertwined with the blood-stained piratical banner of the new-born Slave Confederation. Unless earnest men be up and doing, this great wickedness will be perpetrated ere many days be past.

I remain yours, faithfully, AN M. P.

LONDON, Dec. 4, 1861.

THE SPEECH OF JOHN BRIGHT AT ROCHDALE.

From the London Times.

It is much to be feared that the portion of Mr. BRIGHT's speech which relates to the question in dispute between the Federal States and this country will be by many considered to partake too much of the character of buffoonery to be upon a level with the importance of the subject. The sneer at "what is called International Law" is surely rather worthy of a jester than a statesman, and the similitude of the United States to a man nearly dead drunk, and ready to fight anybody, is much more facetious than argumentative. But we have one grain of comfort. Mr. BRIGHT has nothing to say in favor or in defence of the outrage committed upon our flag. He promises that upon some future occasion he will produce instances of many similar outrages committed by us fifty or sixty years ago. We disposed of this style of argument yesterday, and shall not condescend to reiterate the obvious answer to-day. Mr. BRIGHT, however, has not added a line to the little the Americans and their advocates have said in excuse of what they have done. This is very reassuring. If Mr. BRIGHT, who was supported at Rochdale by the United States Consul, and, no doubt, by all the aid which the United States can afford, was unable to do more than sneer at all International Law, and, at the same time, to give up the outrage upon the British flag as "impolitic and bad," *we are tolerably sure that we have heard all that can be said against England, and that she is indisputably right in taking the straight course to vindicate her honor. Let America judge by the speech of her greatest admirer in England how little can be said for her outrage upon a friendly, although a neutral country.* Let her know, that in this country, even this comparatively moderate speech of Mr. BRIGHT is but a voice without an echo.

From the Manchester Guardian.

With regard to the demeanor of the English people under the insult we have received, there is still an absence of any one to agree with Mr. BRIGHT. The member for Birmingham, as we saw yesterday, thinks that we are more to be compared to "savages than Christian men," apparently *because while waiting and hoping for peaceable reparation, we are reckoning up our resources for a struggle, and putting them in order.* Capt. DENMAN sees the matter in a different light. He pays to this district a compliment, not unmerited, we hope, by the facts, but scarcely, we think, worthy of mention, on account of the steadiness with which it excludes from its consideration of the question at issue, the accident that if we go to war we shall certainly not long continue to suffer from the want of cotton. It is simply true that this prospect, however undeniable, does not perceptibly influence the feelings with which we await the decision of the Americans on the question submitted to them, and the subsequent action of the English Ministry. In common with the rest of the country, we concur with Capt. DENMAN in thinking *it would indeed be a very great evil if by clamor or undue interference we should urge the Government to any other course but that which is consistent with simply asserting our rights, and giving due time for them to be recognized,*" and we join with him in an earnest longing that the calamities of war may be avoided. If, however, it be inevitable, we have the satisfaction of knowing that it will not find us unprepared. The United States will have provoked a collision with us under circumstances evincing on their part a judicial blindness not less signal than the wanton disregard of justice of which they will be convicted. The numerical relation between the naval forces of the two countries, being in our favor in a proportion of nearly five to one, is such as to exclude from every mind not deeply imbued with unworthy suspicion the notion of our desiring to go to war for barren glory. To an English sailor, proud of his profession and eager to see its efficiency demonstrated by the sternest practical test, we can easily understand that it is a subject of pain rather than exultation to have to observe that, just when we find ourselves on the threshold of a serious quarrel with an ancient maritime rival, the navy of the United States has sunk into comparitive insignificance. That, however, is not our fault. If unhappily we should be forced into hostilities, it will not be in order to show that the skill of our commanders, and the prowess of all ranks of the navy have undergone no abatement—though isolated opportunities of this kind will not be wanting—but to defend rights so sacred that we cannot allow them to be impugned simply because the aggressor happens to be weak as well as criminal. We continue to hope that other considerations than that of the unprecedented power we can bring to support our demands will cause them to be met in an equitable and accommodating spirit.

THE DRIFT OF ENGLISH FEELING—THE CHANCES OF WAR.

Correspondence of the Monitor.

LONDON, Dec. 2.

The report has been current that there existed differences of opinion in the Cabinet on the affair of the *Trent*. The assertion has no foundation. The Ministers were perfectly agreed on the tenor of the dispatches to Lord LYONS which are now crossing the Atlantic. All the members of the Government in their private conversations express identical sentiments, and testify their firm resolution to obtain the reparation due to England. This serious incident is destined, moreover, to give fresh strength to the Cabinet. Public opinion has absolute confidence in Lord PALMERSTON and Earl RUSSELL for bringing to a close difficulties of this class.

The news arrived to-day from the United States is satisfactory only in one point of view, but that is a principal one. It seems no longer doubtful that Capt. WILKES acted without orders, which would leave full latitude to President LINCOLN to disavow the act and to set the prisoners free without any sacrifice to the National dignity. But it is affirmed on the other hand, that the *James Adger*, United States war-steamer, which put into Southampton lately to revictual, had received orders from his Government to search for Messrs. SLIDELL and MASON on board the Royal Mail steamers from the West Indies, and that, in anticipation of such a deed, the British Government took measures for protecting those vessels—but only on this side of the Atlantic, where the *James Adger* was cruising.

Certain persons, whom there is reason to believe well informed, express the idea that Mr. LINCOLN will refuse to yield to the popular impulse, which has greeted the act of Capt. WILKES with enthusiasm; and that his political prudence will hesitate before a resolution whose first effect would be to transfer the blockade from the ports of the South to those of the North; but this hope does not appear to be partaken by Mr. ADAMS, the United States Minister in London. That diplomatist would seem, it is said, to look on his speedy recall as inevitable. Personally, Mr. ADAMS has been able to conciliate the sympathy of the high English society; but he is held to have only a very limited latitude in his diplomatic action, and it is affirmed that he receives his instructions from Washington from week to week. He has it in his power, therefore, to influence the pacific solution of the question now in suspense, but in a very restricted degree.

The decision of the Crown lawyers, proclaiming the illegality of the act committed by the *San Jacinto*, has been received with satisfaction; but it has not modified public opinion. The incident by itself holds but a secondary place in the estimation of the English people. They see in it only the inevitable conclusion of a policy hostile to England, long since inaugurated by the United States; and the nation shows an imposing unanimity for demanding the abandonment of the system of concession adopted on the other hand by the British Government in its relations with the American Republic. The English deem it well that satisfaction should be demanded for the violent seizure of Messrs. SLIDELL and MASON; *but they want beyond everything a change in the diplomatic attitude.* They wish that the national flag should be held higher and more firmly in the face of the Stars of America. It is proper to repeat that on this point there are not two opinions in the country.

A WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES IMPROBABLE.

From the Liverpool Post.

The chances are against the probability of a war between England and North America. On Tuesday we stated, on authority that excluded doubt that in diplomatic circles it was understood that a reference would be made to Louis NAPOLEON, and yesterday the telegram confirmed our statement. *The Emperor of the French has already offered his services as mediator*, and they are pretty sure to be accepted. The matter in dispute is a legal question. Ministers themselves gave it that character when they submitted it to the law advisers of the Crown. The Attorney and Solicitor Generals are not infallible; they may be wrong, and it does not become the greatness and majesty of England to involve the world in war on a point of law respecting which the most profound lawyers differ. The Emperor of the French having offered himself as a mediator, the obvious inference is that he will not join England in a war against America. We will not infer that he would become the ally of the Federals.

From the Liverpool Mercury.

The fall of cotton to the extent of a penny a pound has somewhat cooled the ardor of several of the gentlemen on the Liverpool exchange who took part in the "great indignation meeting," which was held on the receipt of the news of the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners. Perhaps some of the speculators thought that if they could get up a war panic, the price of cotton would also go up. In this, however, they were mistaken. Cautious men saw that if war were declared by this country, the Federal Government could not long maintain the blockade of the Southern ports, and in that case, there would be a plentiful supply of cotton. Prices, therefore, went down; but, under the influence of more pacific anticipations, part of the fall has now been recovered. A shrewd observer of men and things remarked the other day *that there were men on 'Change who would, for their own selfish purposes, like a declaration of war every day.* We have the best authority for stating that it is the opinion of a very influential American now in this country, and a gentleman who is well acquainted with the feeling of his countrymen, that the Federal Government will repudiate the conduct of the Captain of the *San Jacinto*, and make the necessary apology and restitution. *Until we learn the result of the appeal to the American Government, it would be well to allow the first feelings of indignation to subside, and wait patiently the issue.*

It has been stated in some papers that Lieut. FAIRFAX, who boarded the *Trent*, behaved in a rude and unbecoming manner whilst in the discharge of what even he must have considered a very disagreeable task. We are glad to be able, on the authority of a lady member of the family of one of the Commissioners, to contradict this statement. *We are assured that the Lieutenant, in carrying out the orders of his Commander, behaved with the utmost courtesy, and personally conducted himself like an officer and a gentleman.*

SPEECH OF CAPT. DENMAN, R. N., ON THE CRISIS.

From the Manchester Guardian.

The Volunteers of Manchester, who are somewhat indebted for support to Capt. DENMAN, R. N., entertained him at dinner last night, at the Palatine Hotel. There was much speaking, and chiefly about America. In the course of his remarks, Capt. DENMAN said:

There was a law called "Lynch law," which unhappily prevailed in America—a law which was the greatest evil which could afflict a country. God help a subject to Lynch law! and when he saw the temptation to extend that law to the high seas, he thought they were bound and compelled to endeavor to put an end to such proceedings. [Cheers.] Messrs. SLIDELL and MASON were seized on board a British ship as rebels to the United States; but if they were rebels, no belligerent rights, no right of search, existed. [Hear, hear.] And if they were merely rebels, it was one of our proudest boasts that a British ship was a sacred asylum to political offenders. But the term "rebels" was dropped as soon as the two gentlemen reached the United States, and belligerent rights were talked of; but he thought it was only too clear that their seizure was a violation of those rights. In this country, however, we were prepared to abide by the strict letter of the law; but from the letter we could not depart [hear, hear.] If once we succumbed to a decided wrong, we invited a repetition of that wrong [hear, hear.] He earnestly trusted that due reparation would be made, and that the mighty evils of war with the Northern States would be averted [applause.] But, whatever course would be pursued, he thought that, at present, we should all approve of the course now taken by her Majesty's Government. The self-reliance and dignity now shown was worthy of the spirit which called forth the Volunteer movement; and it would indeed be a very great evil, if, by clamor or undue interference, we should urge the Government on to war, or to any other course but that which was consistent with simply asserting our rights, and waiting to see whether they would be recognized. [Applause.] *He knew that we were all actuated by truly friendly feelings toward America.* We had during a long course of years restricted the course of what—with every wish to use the most moderate language that was applicable—he could only call insolence, and an overbearing determination to have their own way, right or wrong, on the part of the Americans, but he thought that it now behoved us to resent such attempts. [Applause.] He thought we had witnessed the Americans pursuing a course in disregard of the first principles of freedom, and totally inconsistent with common sense. For at the present moment, in a time of profound peace, England had—scattered over the globe, it was true—not less than 151 steam ships of war, excluding troop-ships, store vessels, and all non-combatant ships belonging to the Government. The United States possessed but 35 ships of war altogether; although they had added to them of late, in ships not fit for war, some 100 sail. With such a force wantonly to outrage England, looked as if it was intentionally done; especially considering the warning of Mr. SEWARD to the States to prepare their sea coasts against attack by foreign nations, there being none such except those that might by created by the outrages of the Northern States. [Hear, hear.] If, under existing circumstances, those States, by their public approval and acclamation, should bring upon themselves the calamity of a war with England, he thought it would show that there was something defective in their system of government. He should himself be inclined to think that those evils might be traced to the errors of mob government—of a government in which power was taken from the men of intelligence and substance, and placed in the hands of an ignorant multitude. He trusted, however, that his anticipations might be deceived; that by a speedy arrival from America we should learn that the seizure had been disavowed, and that the rebel Commissioners, or the Confederate Ambassadors might be delivered up again to us. [Applause.]

PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

From the London Times.

As to the general course of events, in the present hour of suspense any ordinary news from America must seem flat and uninteresting. We feel that we are divided by a great gulf from the time before the outrage on the *Trent*. The events of the war which excited our curiosity a fortnight ago now lose much of their interest, since we know that their import is now subordinate to a larger issue. While the two parties are carrying on their usual desultory warfare—this side bombarding a Confederate seaport, that side burning a Federal town—we know that a message is on its way from England to America, the reception of which may change the civil war into a great and world-wide struggle. Nothing can interest us now unless it relates to the one question, will Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL be given up? Everything that bears on this will be greedily read by the British public; everything that tends to show the temper of the Americans, or to give a clue to the intentions of their Government, will be minutely investigated and discussed. Unhappily, the telegrams we publish to-day give little information on this point. So far as we are able to judge from them, the Americans seem to be unconscious of the momentous controversy which they have raised. It is said that an uneasy feeling prevails, but we cannot but think that, being so accustomed to find the British give way in similar cases, they will in a few days have taken it for granted that everything is right, and that, after a little grumbling, England will acquiesce, not only in what they have done, but in what they announce their intention of doing. The news brought by the present mail is also the less important, inasmuch as the burning of the *Harvey Birch* and the admission of the *Nashville* to refit at Southampton had not yet reached the States. Although everything we have done in this case is strictly legal, and, indeed, could not have been refused without a manifest breach of neutrality, yet the theory of the North that its enemies are rebels, and that we have no right to aid and abet them, will probably cause a fresh outburst of anger against us. *It is, perhaps, not in the interest of a peaceful solution that the Federal Congress was to meet on the 2d of the present month, since President Lincoln can hardly avoid giving in his Message an opinion on the act of Capt. Wilkes, and it is probable that, under the influence of his Secretary of State, he may have committed himself to assertions and promises which will make it very difficult for him to do otherwise.* We can only hope that when the speech of the British Government is received the conviction that England is thoroughly in earnest will induce the President, and the more sober members of the Cabinet, to yield, in spite of any pledges they may have given in the hour of fancied security.

INJURIOUS EFFECT OF THE PROHIBITORY PROCLAMATION.

From the London Times.

The proclamation which has just been issued, prohibiting the export of ammunition and other warlike stores, has already exercised a most injurious effect upon certain branches of our manufactures. Conspicuous among the sufferers are those who have of late turned their attention to the manufacture of ordnance, in the formation of which, and the machinery requisite for carrying it on, a large amount of capital has been embarked. In Birmingham, the loss, it is said, will be very serious. In Liverpool the injurious effects are pointedly felt in various ways. For a considerable time past Capt. BLAKELEY has been extensively employed in manufacturing the particular species of ordnance known as the "Blakely gun," for which he had orders from different foreign Governments, and many guns of large calibre which have been ordered are nearly ready for delivery. Of these there are three 200-pounder guns of 9-inch bore, each weighing from 140 to 180 cwt.; two 120-pounders of 7½-inch bore, weighing about 75 cwt.; and eight or ten 56-pounders, besides numerous smaller guns, 40-pounders, of about 30 cwt., just the thing for a merchat ship to be armed with. In addition to all these there are many light field guns all ready for delivery; but the royal proclamation prevents them from being sent anywhere in the meantime. This is felt to be rather hard at the present juncture, as the home Government does not patronise the "Blakely gun," and at the present moment will not allow other governments, with which we happen to be on friendly terms, to have them.

REINFORCEMENTS ON THEIR WAY TO CANADA.

Royal Artillery, Battery E, Capt. VESEY.
Royal Artillery, Battery F, Capt. LESLIE.
Second Regiment of the Line, (one battalion.)
Sixteenth Regiment of the Line, (one battalion,)
Twentieth Regiment of the Line, (one battalion.)
Forty-fifth Regiment of the Line, (one battalion.)
Sixteenth Lancers—3 companies.
Royal Engineers—3 companies.

Making a total force on its way to Canada, of 5,500 men, with twelve 12-pounder Armstrong rifled guns.

THE ANTI-WAR FEELING IN DUBLIN.

From the Manchester Guardian.

A monster meeting of "Irish Nationalists" was held in Dublin on Thursday night, "to take into consideration the aspect and position of Irish national affairs at the present momentous crisis. The O'DONOGHUE, M. P., presided. The honorable gentleman said that the prospects of a war between England and America afforded the opportunity for testing whether Ireland has a right to shape her course with a view exclusively to her own interests—whether she has a right to think, speak and act for herself—[Hear, hear, and cheers]—and whether Irishmen are fit to be the guardians of Ireland's honor. [Great cheers.] Now, he continued, I believe such an opportunity has never occurred before—[Bravo]—and I fear such an opportunity may never offer again—[Cheers]—and while so many millions of Irishmen are yet to be found in this island—of true Irishmen, I mean—[Yells]—animated with that indomitable spirit which for more than six hundred years has refused to acquiesce in foreign denomination. [Waving of hats, and great cheering, amid which the conclusion of the sentence was lost.] We all know what hostile legislation has done and is doing to destroy our population. A fearful responsibility is thrown upon us—for we must act. [Tremendous cheering, and shouts of "We're ready."] If we remain quiescent at this critical juncture, or if we allow ourselves to be used by others for their own purposes, we accept slavery for ourselves and for our children, ["Bravo;"] and, in fact, are guilty of recognizing the extinction of our own nationality. [Cheers.] England is aware of the unfortunate state of things in America, and imagines that she would have no great difficulty in crushing the Northern States. This may not be so easily done. [Shouts of "Bravo," waving of hats, and tremendous cheering.] Then, I suppose I am right in supposing that this is not an indignation meeting—[cheers]—that we are not met here like abject sycophants to echo the sounds of English wrath, and that we are met here as Irishmen to consult for the safety of Ireland. [Yells and groans.] Now, I am perfectly certain that the great majority of Irishmen will object to contribute either men or men for the purpose of enabling England to make war with the Northern States. [Enthusiastic cheering.] At the same time I am perfectly satisfied that the very contrary will be said in addresses emanating from Corporations—[hisses,] poor-law guardians, town commissioners, and other sources, which almost invariably misrepresent our opinions. As a friend of America, as an Irishman deeply interested in the welfare of America, I am for a Northern Confederacy and for a Southern Confederacy; but, as an Irishman, as the friend of America, I am against, and shall ever be against the English Government or people stepping in to settle this dispute, by annihilating, or attempting to annihilate the Northern States. [Cheers.] With regard to the question of international law, that has been raised by the taking of the Southern Commissioners from the deck of an English steamer, the opinion of the law officers is, that if the American war vessel had taken the steamer as well as the Commissioners, there would have been no violation of International law. The American Government are able to get precedents in favor of what they have done; and for my part I have quite as much respect for the opinions of the American as I have for the opinions of the English law officers. Mr. P. J. SMITH, Mr. THOMAS C. GRAY, "Lieut. CRANE, of the Papal Brigade," and other patriots, moved and seconded a series of resolutions hostile to England.

A Mr. P. J. SMITH moved the first resolution—"That the population of America, from St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, from New-York to San Francisco, being largely intermixed with men of Irish birth and Irish blood, it would be unnatural to suppose that Ireland could remain an indifferent spectator of the struggle between England and America." Mr. SMITH, in the course of an excited address, said he believed that if England entered into war with the Northern States, Irishmen would recognise in America a nation that had befriended them; while, on the other side, they would see in England a nation that had leveled their homes, and sent their countrymen outcasts throughout the world—that denied to them even the ordinary rights of manhood—the right to arm—which was freely given to the people of England and Scotland.

The resolution was seconded and unanimously adopted.

Mr. M. A. O'BRENNAN moved the second resolution—"That, at a moment when the existence of America seems about to be menaced by her ancient foe, we feel bound to recall the generous aid our country has ever received from that great republic, whose shores gave asylum to our exiles, banished by English oppression, and whose country fed our people, famishing under English misrule." Mr. O'BRENNAN said they were resolved to let the world see they would extend their sympathy to the historical protector of Ireland.

This resolution, after being seconded by a patriot named HOPPER, who assured somebody that the meeting was composed of true Irishmen, foes to England and the English race—[tremendous cheers]—was also adopted.

Another resolution was worded as follows:

"That we recognize in the great American Union the great home of the exiled and persecuted Irish, and consequently that we have met here to-night for the purpose of manifesting by our language—strong, by our resolve—firm, and by the majesty of our numbers, that we are prepared to extend our sympathy if a struggle arise between the hereditary foe and the historic protector of our country." Another declared "That the events of the hour imperatively dictate to all Irishmen a forgetfulness of past differences, and a united rally for the old cause of their country."

Before the mee

quantity to draw from other sources of supply. Hence, it is necessary that we should fully consider the power of those sources to meet the forthcoming deficiency in the importations from America. Russia has, this year, supplied us with only 227,224 quarters of wheat; but our advices from Odessa state, that the crops in that quarter have ... and that the quantity of grain in warehouse at that port is 1,500,000 quarters—1,250,000 quarters being wheat, the remainder chiefly Indian corn. The produce of the wheat crop in Hungary is estimated at fully one-third larger than in 1860; whilst in Germany, as well as in other parts of the Continent, except in France, the growers generally express themselves well satisfied with the result of the harvest. We shall not, of course, be able to draw large quantities of grain from the Baltic ports during the remainder of the Winter; but we may look forward with some confidence to an enormous import of wheat both from the Danube and the Black Sea. Wheat is now freely offering at Odessa at 39s. to 43s. per quarter. If to these figures we add freight, insurance, charges, &c., it would cost, laid down in England, from 51s. to 55s. per quarter. As Odessa wheats are not worth more than 52s. to 56s. per quarter at Mark-lane, these prices do not appear very tempting to the speculators; but, of course, a war with the States would enhance the quotations considerably, and cover the importers from loss on sales.

Admitting that there is no scarcity of grain in Russia, Prussia, Denmark, &c., it is a matter of deep interest for us to consider whether these countries will be in a position to supply us with, say, 2,000,000 additional quarters of wheat next year. We estimate the quantity required at one-third less than the present year's importation from New-York, &c., owing to the comparatively beautiful harvest gathered in England. Clearly, all men of business will direct their energies to the cheapest markets in the world, and it is equally clear that the shippers abroad will direct their produce to those which offer the greatest amount of profit. Upon this principle operations of an extensive character have already commenced. *Orders for the purchase of nearly 500,000 quarters of wheat have, within the last few days, been forwarded to the Black Sea ports, both for present and future shipment;* but we have heard apprehensions expressed that a scarcity of shipping will alone prevent so rapid an outflow of food as could be desired. An immediate export of 500,000 quarters could not, of course, be made; but eventually there will be no want of vessels to bring home all the corn that we may require. War would naturally induce great caution on the part of our shipowners, and the vessels now trading to America would be released to bring grain from the south of Russia, at, perhaps, an important rise in freights. *We do not, therefore, regard our future prospects with feelings of alarm.* On the contrary, we are perfectly satisfied that our importations of food during the coming year will equal in extent those of the last four or five seasons, though, of course, in order to obtain all that we may require, we shall be compelled to pay higher prices than those now current. The Americans may, if they please, take a very different view of our breadstuff importations; but coming events may prove that some important miscalculations in reference to our actual dependence upon them for food have been made. The possession of some ten millions in gold, paid them for wheat, flour and maize, during the present year, appears to have had the effect of producing a most extraordinary feeling. They seem to view with delight, the decline in their import trade this year of a hundred millions of dollars, the thirty millions increase in the exports compared with last season, and the total suspension of specie shipments. They must, however, remember that the "thirty millions increase" is represented in the value of breadstuffs, and that any sensible movement on the part of England would immediately put a stop to further shipments. We should then see more clearly than at present, how America can prosper without trade, and we should, perhaps, find the war in the South brought to a speedy close from want of funds. The future resources of the Northern States, so far as hard cash is concerned, must rely upon the amount of wheat, flour, &c., which they can export to England for ready money. Let those resources be dried up—as unquestionably they will be on the breaking out of a war—*and an immense quantity of paper money, never to be redeemed, except at a fearful loss to the holders, must be issued, and the result be nothing short of National bankruptcy.*

Let us, then, be under no apprehension, however large our wants may be, that we shall suffer from an inadequate supply of food to make good our usual importations from America. Doubtless, we repeat, we shall have to pay higher prices on the Continent than we otherwise should, were the States to forward liberally; and it follows that our markets will be somewhat excited. *But to suppose that we shall be actually in want of food is an absurdity.* Besides, it occurs to us that we should act wisely in drawing more largely upon Continental resources, even though we may remain at peace with the States, were it only on the principle of an increased interchange of goods and produce.

AMICABLE FEELING OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE SOUTH.

From the London Post.

We draw attention to the rational and friendly manner in which the Southern President alludes to the attitude maintained hitherto toward America by this country, because we regard our relations with the Southern States as henceforward of very considerable importance. *These States have now attained such a position that we must bring ourselves to believe in the permanence of their independent Confederation.* We have differences with the North in which the Southerners are directly interested; and we have just concluded a treaty with the Juarez Government of Mexico for a settlement of our long-standing claims upon that country, under the "Aldham Convention," and other recorded obligations. Our naval expedition to the Gulf of Mexico is charged with the execution of these terms; and, probably, before February next, the system of sequestration of customs revenue at Vera Cruz and Tampico will have been put into action, and the proceeds be accumulating for distribution under the Mixed Commission between the despoiled residents and the wronged bondholders. We must look upon this intervention as one that may be in operation during a considerable period of time; and while the Northern Government is too distant to admi of its attitude entering materially into this question, the Southern Confederation, on the other hand, stretches for a great distance along the frontiers of Mexico, so as to render its friendly disposition to the authors of the intervention of no slight consequence. The Northern Government has invariably railed at our neutrality, but the Southern, with statesmanship and moderation, has recognised in it all that we could do fer either party; and whether with a view to our transactions in Mexico, or to our relations with the Cabinet of Washington, *the friendly forbearance of the Southern Confederacy is an important point in our favor.*

Americans in Berlin.

About seventy or eighty Americans, resident in Berlin, dined together in that city a few days before the departure of the *America*, at Arnim's Hotel, to celebrate their national custom of the harvest home, or autumnal feast. The following account of the proceedings is a condensation of an ampler report which has been received:

"The first toast was, the "Health of the President and his representative at Berlin, Mr. JUDD, the American Minister, replied, and after describing under what circumstances the custom was usually observed, alluded to the changed position of affairs at the present day. The conflict now raging in America was, he said, of the highest importance, not only for that country, but for the world, as on the issue depended the complete freedom of the citizens and the Union of the States. Mr. JUDD then expressed his unshakeable confidence that the result would be the complete abolition of Slavery, which was the inheritance of England and an increase of the power of the Union. In the course of his speech his Excellency expressed the opinion that the recent affair respecting the English mail-boat would not oblige England to take warlike measures. Another toast, proposed by Dr. HARDING, of Illinois, was—'Our glorious dead, the heroes of our second war of Independence.' It was replied to by the Secretary of the American Embassy, Mr. KREISMANN, who spoke for the army and navy, and made a great impression upon his hearers. Half a million volunteers had, he said, sprung from the ground, and 310 armed vessels, created as if by magic, displayed the banner of the Stars on every sea; not for the purpose of conquest, ambition, or self-interest; but to restore the blessings which the American Constitution made common property—freedom of the person, security of property, and the pursuit of happiness. The 'Health of Gen. SCOTT' was the last of the official toasts. The meeting became very animated after this, and several volunteer toasts were proposed, amongst which was one by Mr. LONGFELLOW, the brother of the poet, who gave 'The Literature of America.' The guests, so closes the account, seemed so pleased at last that, although ladies were present, they relaxed the severity of the custom on such occasions, and here and there the smoke of a Havana cigar was seen gracefully ascending."

The New-York Herald Appreciated Abroad.

From the London Advertiser.

A gentleman who has arrived by the *Persia*, and with whom we were in communication last night, informs us that he was speaking to a member of Congress immediately before he started from New-York. The subject of the insult to the British flag formed, of course, the topic of their conversation. Our friend was then informed that the foreign element, which includes 60,000 Germans, were about to hold a mass meeting in New-York to protest against the American Government holding SLIDELL and MASON in case the British Government demanded their restoration. The object of this meeting was manifest. It was to bear as a pressure upon the American Government, and against the unprincipled diatribes of the infamous Press of the States, of which BENNETT, of the New-York *Herald*, is the leading writer. Our informant says that whatever name BENNETT may have out of the country of his adoption—for BENNETT was originally a Scotchman—his inflammatory writings throughout the States have no weight

FROM WEST POINT.

Improvements in Artillery — Experiments with Algers', Armstrong's and Parrott's Gun—The Results Attained—What is Thought of De Brahm's Gun—Feeling in Reference to a War with England—Anecdote of the Prince of Wales—Medals for our Soldiers—The Cadets, &c.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

WEST POINT, Friday, Dec. 20, 1861.

The leading spirits of our army, the great minds who direct the movement of a million of men—MCCLELLAN and BEAURGARD, MCDOWELL and JOHNSTON, LEE and LYON, SMITH and BURNSIDE, MAGRUDER and HALLECK, BUELL and LOVELL,—these men alike have met within the sacred precincts of our Academy. All their plans of strategy, all their theories of engineering, all their science in war, is the offspring of West Point. Their attainments in every branch of knowledge received their polish here, and the frowning battlements that throng the Potomac, the deep intrenchments that have been carved through fields of wheat and fields of cotton, West Point education engineered and planned. A letter, therefore, from this locality, which is the fostering home of the army, may not be unacceptable.

Modern warfare is a revolution in the science of arms. Flint locks, smooth bores and spherial shot have been to a certain degree discarded by military experts. Muskets and cannon of excellent metal and well tested strength, but the result of exploded theories, lie rusting and condemned in our military and naval arsenals and depôts. The revolution has been complete, and the science of war is now controlled by the cool planning of a Napoleonic brain rather than by the impetuous action of a Murat. Few battles now occur in which the bayonet crosses its glistening antagonist, or where the flashing sabre clashes in combat. Cannon is the arm, and war is a a cannon duel, in which length of range, weight of metal, and accuracy of aim win the victory.

The Crimean war determined the position of cannon. Solferino was a cannon victory, so was Magenta, so was the Chinese expedition, so was Milan so was Port Royal, and so will be Pensacola; and if Gen. MCCLELLAN has determined to make this a cannon war, then it is important that that branch of our arms should be watched with care, that every improvement and invention should receive consideration, and that we should avail ourselves of every improved weapon that would prove a means of bringing our campaign to a successful termination. At the commencement of this war our best field artillery was in Texas and New-Mexico—our best naval ordnance at Norfolk. By their seizure we found ourselves almost without cannon; and, worse than all, we found that while France and England had been directing constant attention to improvements in cannon, our Secretaries had been willfully neglecting to arm the nation. Mechanical genius had been directed to the production of ploughs and mowing-machines. We had a few men like COLT, SHARP, DAHLGREN, RODMAN and PARROTT, who had experimented and successfully introduced improvements, but we had not devoted that attention to arms which prudential motives should have dictated. We heard rumors of wondrous cannon, whose effects were marvelous; and that ARMSTRONG was knighted for inventing a cannon that carried a ball any imaginable distance, but the people wondered and slept. The ingenuity and patriotism of our people is now thoroughly aroused, and the inventive faculties of our mechanics are directed in the proper channel, and the result is the production of guns combining the simplicity of construction, the accuracy of aim, the length of range, the strength and the saving of metal peculiar to foreign rifled cannon. Men like DE BRAHM, ALGER, RODMAN and PARROTT have worked and are working wonders. Our army officers who have witnessed the De Brahm gun think it will create a complete revolution in the construction of barrels; while ALGER'S new breech-loading cannon operates with remarkable perfection. The last-named was tested here this week. It is the only breech-loading gun tested by order of the War Department. It is the invention of CHARLES ALGER, Esq., of Hudson, a gentleman who has observed the experiments in England of the Armstrong and Whitworth guns, and who has therefore been careful to avoid the defects which those guns possessed; indeed, it is much more simple in its construction than the Armstrong. The gun under experiment was a model gun carrying an eight pound shot; the semi-spherical breech piece is revolved by a lever, while it is kept in its position by means of a large hollow screw in the rear; compressed projectiles were used, coated with lead and tin. One hundred and five shots were fired at intervals without cleaning; the accuracy of fire and range was good, and the experiment proved all that was claimed for the gun, viz: the efficiency of breech-loading guns. Upon the report made to the Ordnance Department, no doubt a large gun will be ordered and then its true worth can be decided.

The Parrott gun has been lately subjected to severe experiments, a 10-pounder having been fired 1,000 service rounds; the result of this trial was to test the endurance of the Parrott 10-pounder rifled cannon.

PROJECTILE.—The projectile used is cylindro-conoidal in form, having at its base either a wrought-iron cup, an improvement on REED'S patent, or a brass ring, the invention of Capt. PARROTT; 231 with brass rings were fired, the remainder with iron cups.

The trial was commenced the 1st of August, and was continued from day to day, when possible, until its conclusion on the 19th August, the gun having been fired 1,005 rounds with service charges, that is, one pound of powder and 10-pound shot in each charge. After 979 shots had been fired, the shots were then aimed at the target, and 17 out of the 21 struck it.

The use of wrought-iron as the material of the expanding cup of the projectile, has no injurious effect on the grooves, as out of the 1,005 projectiles fired 770 or three-fourths, were made with the wrought-iron cups. These were the results of so long a trial with the 10-pounder, and which have been reported to the Department; but the result of the past few days have been still more satisfactory for, the 100-pounders have achieved a success almost equal to ARMSTRONG, without those defects and accidents which have accompanied the use of the Armstrong, and at less than one-fifth of the cost.

Now, what are the defects of the Armstrong gun? Why, under rapid firing, the heat is rapidly transmitted to the mass of the gun; the delicate screw arrangements and breech-pieces no longer fit the one into the other, and the consequence is that an enormous escape of gas takes place invariably before the twentieth round, and the gun is rendered *hors du combat* before the thirtieth shot. It therefore follows that the Armstrong gun can only be used for deliberate firing; that is, that the gun shall never become heated. The *Mechanics' Magazine* states that during the experiments on board the British ship *Trusty*, under the direction of the Select Committee, as many as four vent-pieces were destroyed from one gun, during 50 rounds; and the time consumed in firing these 50 rounds was something like eight hours. Another objection is the shot. The composition metal surrounding the base of the shot sometimes exfoliates and scatters the fragments in every direction, almost immediately after leaving the gun.

It must be borne in mind that it is the powder and not the gun which gives the propelling power, the gun is superior in comparison to its capability to resist the strain made upon it, and the range is due wholly to the diminished resistance which their projectiles from their peculiar form encounter in the air, this resistance amounting in the case of light shot at high velocities to more than one hundred times the weight of the projectile itself, and any gun which will impart a spinning motion to a conical bullet would be almost certain to throw it with great accuracy to a great distance.

The Armstrong gun has done wonders. It has thrown shot with precision and wonderful range, but it must not be considered that the Armstrong is without objection; on the contrary, the modifications and alterations have been numerous, and even at this time Lieut.-Col. GEORGE COOK, President of the Ordnance Select Committee, has decided to make important alterations in all future constructions of the Polak with the Armstrong gun under the direction of our army officers, excellent results were attained.

I send you the results of the experiments made by the Mersey gun, the Armstrong and the Parrott.

The Horsfall and Mersey gun was lately tried at Portsmouth, England. The dimensions of the gun are as follows: Length from breech to muzzle, 15 feet 10 inches; length of bore, 12 feet 4 inches; the weight of the shot 2-0 lbs. The following are the ranges obtained: At five degrees of elevation, with 40 lbs. of powder, 2,234 yards; at 10 degrees, 3,388 yards; at 12 degrees, 3,835 yards. On the ninety-seventh round the gun was cracked.

The Parrott gun, which has been severely tried the present week, under the direction of Capt. BENET, U. S. A., and Capt. PARROTT, resulted as follows:

DEC. 16, 1861, 100-POUNDER PARROTT RIFLED GUN.

Number.	Elevation.	Powder.	Charge, lbs.	Projectile, lbs.	Range, yds.	Deviation to the right, yards.
1..	10°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shell 100	3,890	32.08
2..	10°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shell 100	3,452	20.06
3..	10°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shell 100	3,532	20.52
4..	10°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shot 84	3,855	50.48
5..	10°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shot 84	3,940	51.56
6..	15°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shell 100	4,949	28.75
7..	15°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shot 84	5,480	85.78
8..	15°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shot 84	5,100	133.51
9..	15°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shot 84	5,320	93.00
10..	15°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shot 84	5,294	115.47
11..	15°	Hazard, No. 7	10	shell 100	4,938	71.79
12..	15°	Bennington, 5	10	shell 100	4,809	69.92
13..	15°	Bennington, 5	10	shell 100	4,802	69.82
14..	20°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shell 100	5,776	151.21
15..	20°	Dupont, No. 5	10	shell 100	5,809	118.27
16..	20°	Hazard, No. 5	10	shell 100	5,790	142.86
17..	20°	Hazard, No. 5	10	shot 84	6,325	193.10
18..	20°	*Hazard, No. 2	10	shot 84	6,305	201.76
19..	20°	*Hazard, No. 2	10	shot 84	6,490	207.68

*Carried.

The wind blew violently from the left and a little in front.

Time of flight at 10° elevation, 13 seconds.
Time of flight at 15° elevation, 19 seconds.
Time of flight at 20° elevation, 21 seconds.
Last fire 21½ seconds.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE TRIAL OF THE "ARMSTRONG" GUN, MADE AT WEST POINT.

Elevation.	Range, yards.	Deviation Right.	Time of flight
Ten degrees	3,572.4		11.8"
Ten degrees	3,834.9	4.46	11.8"
Fifteen degrees	4,588.3	46.7	17.0"
Fifteen degrees	5,021.1	46.7	17.2"
Twenty degrees	5,647.6	31.2	21.3"
Twenty degrees	6,305.7	27.5	21.5"

By a comparison of these two tables, it will be perceived that the Parrot gun has surpassed either of the others. One shot from the Parrott, at a higher elevation than here mentioned, struck the water a distance of four miles down the river. The Government works are now turning out four Parrott rifled guns a day, of 10, 20, 32 and 100-pounders. There are now at least a dozen of these terrible 100-pounder cannons ready for transportation. Besides this, there are thousands of projectiles manufactured and shipped as fast as they can be boxed. Dahlgren navy guns, 100-pounders, are turned out at the rate of one per day. Fort Pickens will soon tell the story of their power, for, if truth speaks correctly, Col. BROWN has now six of them ready to pop seventeen-inch projectiles a clear three miles.

The officers and cadets of course discuss the question of war. The general belief is that there will be none, and that we had no right to seize MASON and SLIDELL upon a mail steamer running between two neutral ports, and that we should be the first to resent such an attempt upon us. They are all desirous, however, of the Goverment maintaining its dignity, and will be ready to officer all the new volunteers' One of our New-England Cadets says "BENNETT ought to be hung." What a waste of rope!

The Prince of Wales, while here, was very communicative with the young officers, and when one of them desired him to spend a couple of days and mess with them, he remarked, "I shall soon get rid of my nurses and then I'll be as jolly as any of you."

You, Mr. Editor, must have noticed, while abroad, the pride which every soldier seems to feel in the possession of medals and clasps. A brave man prizes them more than pay or pension; they are the silent historians of his deeds and bravery, and I trust that you will throw out the suggestion, that our brave soldiers may look forward to a medal for the war, and a clasp for every battle, and that the regimental colors shall be emblazoned with the names of the victories which the regiment has won. It would be an incentive to our brave men toiling through the long Winter, and it would be a heirloom for their posterity to point to with pride,

Arrangements have been made for the increase of students which it is supposed Congress will authorize. It is hoped there will be at least four hundred, for the Academy has been sadly thinned by treason and removals. We all, however, look forward to renewed victories, and hope our army will go on conquering to the end (thirty-one stars glittering in the bright blue of our flag.) AUGUSTUS.

AFFAIRS IN KENTUCKY.

Brilliant Affair at Mumfordsville—What the "Provisional Government" and its Kindred Imbostures are Doing—Progress in Frankfort—Union Clubs to be Planted Wherever our Armies Go, etc.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

LOUISVILLE, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1861.

The Mumfordsville skirmish on the 17th, was auspicious. Four companies of Col. WILICH'S Thirty-second Indiana (German) withstood Col. TERRY'S Texas Rangers and their masked batteries, silenced the latter, routed the former, killed TERRY and sixty odd of his men, and wounded many more, while our loss was only twenty killed and wounded. These Rangers are bragged of as among the very gamest of the invaders, and yet they soon took to their heels precipitately. They appear greater braggadocios than fighters, and so may be HARDEE'S scalpers, HINDMAN'S Arkansas toothpickers, and BRECKINRIDGE'S and BRECKINRIDGE'S crack Kentucky bloods. But we don't wish to underrate the invader's pluck. We are prepared to see them show considerable fight. Our preparations are made accordingly.

MARSHALL'S and ZOLLICOFFER'S rumored movements don't alarm us. They can't easily outflank or menace the rear of our main army. They can't draw off forces enough from our central division to weaken it and enable JOHNSTON to attack it with any chance of success. Their talk of forming a junction, and immediately attacking Lexington, Danville and Frankfort, and capturing the Legislature, is bosh to frighten and scatter us and keep up the flagging spirits of the rebel rank and file. At all events, I believe Gen. BUELL cannot be disconcerted, frustrated, or surprised. Before and as he advances, he will guard and secure every important point on every side of him.

Our auspicious beginnings and probable early and decisive triumphs on Kentucky soil, in connection with our recent and forthcoming successes down the Mississippi and along the Gulf and the Atlantic, cheer and encourage us.

The Russellville Provisional Humbug has passed and act laying a tax of $25 per week on all brokers who charge a discount on Tennessee and Southern paper, or refuse to treat such paper as so much specie. In Memphis, Nashville, New-Orleans, Mobile, and perhaps throughout Dixie, they cut up bank notes so as to make the pieces pass for quarters and halves. The Tennessee Legislature has passed, or is about to pass, a bill similar to what the Georgia Legislature has enacted, to prevent monopolies and speculations in breadstuffs and all articles of general use and consumption, and designating the rates at which owners must sell them, under penalty of confiscation and death. I look for such a law in every Confederate State, and for an act of the Confederate Congress declaring that whoever shall ask or receive a per cent. in consideration of the exchange of one sort of money for another, whether specie for paper, or one sort of paper for another, shall be guilty of treason and punished with death. All rebel State bank paper, and all Confederate paper funds, promises and "securities," are to be thus legislated into perfect equality with gold and silver! This is the secession way to put a stop to twenty, thirty, forty, and fifty per cent. discount in Seccessia, and all secesh currency, confederate and State!

I presume our Legislature will expel D. Matthewson, A. R. Boon, J. M. Elliott, G. W. Silvertooth, G. R. Merritt, G. W. Ewing, J. C. Gilbert and J. Q. A. King, as aiding and comforting the invaders, being within the invaders' lines, acting against the United States and Kentucky, and concerned in getting up and boosting the "Provisional Government," which has deputed to the Richmond conclave such miserable renegades as BURNETT, SIMMS, PRESTON, the T. B. MONROES, to represent the popular sentiment of Kentucky.

[NOTE.—All the traitorous members of the Kentucky Legislature named by our correspondent were expelled on the 22d inst.—ED. TIMES.]

The House resolutions relative to a railroad from some terminus on the Ohio, through Tennessee into Western North Carolina, have passed the Senate.

Gen. HUNTER'S bill in regard to vacancies in ministerial offices, has passed the House. It declares vacant, and provides for filling, the unexpired term of every ministerial officer in this Commonwealth, who shall absent himself from the county of his residence sixty days, or take civil or military service in the so-called Confederate States, or directly or indirectly favor or assist the Confederates.

The Legislature will probably adjourn over from 23d to the 2d Wednesday in February.

The Central Union Club's Executive Committee, at Louisville, has issued an address to the members of Union Clubs in Kentucky, urging reorganization, revival, and a bold and vigorous united effort to plant Union Clubs in the seceded States, as soon as circumstances will permit, and wherever a footing can be gained. PONTIAC.

P. S.—There were shipped, on the 17th, from Cincinnati to Louisville, 82,500 articles of soldiers' apparel and 48,450 articles of camp equipage.

A Statement of the Case of Lieut. Janeway.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Great injustice is inadvertently done to Lieut. HUGH H. JANEWAY, of Company D, First New-Jersey Cavalry, in your correspondent's account of the reconnoissance made by him last Tuesday, beyond Alexandria, in which he was severely wounded. His conduct is described as "foolhardy," and he is charged with exceeding his instructions and unnecessarily exposing his men.

Allow a personal friend to state the facts, and do justice to a gallant young officer in whom prudence, courage and consideration for his men are finely united, as these facts will show.

Lieut. JANEWAY was ordered by the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding his regiment (during the suspension of Col. HALSTEAD) to proceed with his company of fifty men, of which (in the absence of the captain) he has been for some time in actual command, and reconnoitre the road beyond Alexandria on the left of our lines. After proceeding several miles, he halted his company, and rode forward with a squad of about eight men, some rods in advance, but not beyond any point within which he was ordered to confine himself, and not, as has been stated, two miles beyond where he halted his men. Here finding that the road descended rapidly, forming a sort of ravine, closely bordered with trees on each side from which an enemy in ambuscade might, while completely sheltered, deliver a volley or a fire from a concealed battery at a few rods distance, he halted his squad on the edge of the wood. The point was one requiring examination. At the same time he felt unwilling to expose his men unnecessarily, or a single man to a danger he was unwilling to run himself. He therefore rode forward, cautiously, alone, directing a single Orderly to follow. The result justified his suspicions and precaution. When fairly within the ravine a party of some thirty of the enemy suddenly issued from the woods and took position across the road. He wheeled at once, the Orderly who was several paces in the rear turning at the same time and making his escape. But of the volley sent after them Lieut. JANEWAY was struck by eight balls, two of which grazed his arms, one his wrist, and two penetrated beneath the shoulder-blade, from which they have not as yet been extracted. Three balls struck his horse. He was stripped of his overcoat; and his sabre and some $75 in cash was taken from him. After listening to a consultation of his captors, in which it was proposed to finish him on the spot, he was not disagreeably disappointed to find more humane counsels prevail. He was presently left alone, and retreated into the woods, from which he succeeded in making his way back to his men, who were only a few hundred rods in the rear. As to the statement that he went two miles further than he was directed by the Captain of his company, it is sufficient to say that he was himself acting-Captain in command, under orders from the Lieutenant Colonel, who was not present.

Lieut. JANEWAY'S conduct in going forward himself, instead of detailing some of his men, may have been prompted by unnecessary delicacy or even pride; but can it be called foolhardiness in a young officer, who knows that if his men see him hold back, or order others to do what he is slow to do himself, they are ready to attribute it to want of courage, until they have seen him tried, when they know it may be soldierly discretion.

There are some hopes of Lieut. JANEWAY'S recovery, but these statements, spread far and wide, pain more sharply than his wounds, and are calculated to injure him, not only in the estimation of his many friends, but in the profession he has chosen, and to which he intends to devote and, if necessary, to sacrifice his life.

His conduct, I believe, is approved by his commanding officer, who has entire confidence in his discretion and capacity as an officer, and of these he has given proof in several similar services in which he has acquitted himself with entire success.

My statements are from the most reliable sources, and are, I believe, correct in every particular.

Yours respectfully,
D. R. JAQUES.

What Shall be Done with the Slaves?

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

I make the following suggestions on the *vexed question*, for the consideration of the country:

I think we should avoid the error of endeavoring *to do too much at once and prematurely.* Let us meet and provide for *the case* as it presents itself, without anticipating the future aspect in which it may need action.

It seems to me that we ought not to legislate, when we have as yet no power to execute our decrees. It would be but a *brutum fulmen* to declare the freedom of the slave in places beyond our military possession. But we are in military possession of extensive slave-holding territory.

There is the case presented upon which we have the power to act, and where we must decide the *status* of the negro.

In the Beaufort District there was by the last census 32,000 negroes. As our army advances then the whites disappear, leaving the most of their negroes.

Let us determine what we will do with them *there;* and as we legislate for the Beaufort negroes, legislate for the negroes abandoned by their masters, or escaped from them, *elsewhere.*

We cannot support such negroes in idleness—we cannot abandon them to a freedom which they know not how to use or enjoy—nor in any possible event can they be remanded to Slavery. They are ignorant, helpless, and dependent for the future on such provision for them as the Government in its wisdom may devise. We are not prepared to send them to Liberia, to Hayti, or elsewhere.

But something must be done for them *immediately.* Why cannot the Government act for these negroes as New-Jersey did for her slaves, subsequent to the census of 1840? We found by that census that we still had some slaves among us; Slavery was abolished, but all existing slaves—made *ipso facto* apprentices for life—their previous owners made their guardians. Now, why cannot the Government, by act of Congress, make the negroes of Beaufort apprentices during the pleasure of the Government, to guardians to be appointed by the President.

Let Beaufort District be divided into townships six miles square; a guardian for the negroes appointed in each township, whose duty it should be to support the negroes out of the proceeds of their labor, the surplus to be appropriated as a fund for the future exportation of the negroes to Africa or elsewhere. A system of laws, or a few simple enactments could be framed for the management of the negroes.

As the conquest of South Carolina proceeds the conquered part might be declared a territory, and organized as such, and appropriated especially to negroes in process of preparation for colonization elsewhere.

What to do with the negro must, to the extent indicated above, be grappled with boldly but firmly by Congress, and disposed of in some practical, commonsense manner.

The negroes of disloyal masters, escaped from them into our military lines, or abandoned by them, ought to be subjected by law to the custody of competent guardians. That is all that should be attempted at present. The fugitives from Slavery ought not to be surrendered, unless escaping from one State to another, and unless the claimant is proved to be loyal.

The declaration of emancipation in advance of our military occupation would be illegal. Such a step would only be justifiable in case of its being palpably indispensable to the restoration of the supremacy of the Government.

If the rebellion is put down, I anticipate that the whole South will acquiesce in some measure for the gradual abolition of Slavery.

Whatever is done on the subject should be done promptly. S. J. E.

Our City Post-Office.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

The inadequacy of our City Post-office to public wants is simply notorious, but the rush at the deposit and stamp windows on steamer day has become positively frightful. The fact is, "people who carry weight in life" can hardly cope with that surging crowd, and I fully believe "there are some who never have a chance." If our respected Postmaster cannot get the ear of the Washington magnates at this crisis, some temporary relief would seem to be within his discretion. Let him put up a shed on the northeast corner of Cedar-street and Broadway, for the deposit of foreign newspapers and letters and for the accommodation of steamer days. This would cost but a trifle, and if Uncle Sam won't pay for it, there are fifty merchants who will.

The foreign business should be removed *in toto* from the western side of the building, for the present rush to send papers to Europe is likely to last till the rebellion is over. Do stir up Father TAYLOR and see if something can't be done to save our buttons and spare our corns. JOHN BUNION.

The Independent.

The New-Haven *Journal and Courier* states that Mr. LEWIS TAPPAN is the successor of Mr. H. C. BOWEN in the ownership and financial control of the New-York *Independent.* The same paper contains the following card,—the signature to which is a sufficient guarantee of its authority:

MESSRS. EDITORS: The *Journal and Courier* of today contains a statement which has been published in several of the New-York papers—namely, that the late editors of the *Independent* "will still give it the aid of their pens." Some persons have inquired whether that statement is correct; I may be allowed, therefore, to say that it is entirely erroneous. Mr. BEECHER, in announcing himself as editor, expressed a most ungrounded *expectation* that the former editors would become contributors under the new ownership of the paper; but I have the best possible reason for believing that all the gentlemen referred to have ceased entirely to communicate with the public through that medium. B.

NEW-HAVEN, Saturday, Dec. 21.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

For Markets, see Sixth Page.

Sales at the Stock Exchange.		Dec. 24, 1861	
$3,000	U. S. 6s, '81..Reg	86	
1,000	U. S. 6s, '67	87	
10,000	Ind. St. 5s, ex int	75	
4,000	Mo. State 6s	38½	
1,000	E. R. 4th Mt. Bs.	72	
3,000	Ill. Cen. R. Bds.	85	
5,000	Ohio & Ind. Bds.	86	
10	Continental Bank	73½	
100	Nic. Transit Co	3	
100	Canton Company	9¾	
160	Pac. Mail St. Co	84¾	
50	do	85	
50	do	b10 85	
50	do	b10 84¾	
20	N. Y. Cen. R	76¾	
400	do	76¾	
145	do	76½	
100	do	s10 76¾	
550	do	76¼	
50	do	b10 86	
50	do	b10 84¾	
400	Cleve. & Toledo R.	30	
20	Chic. & R. Isl'd R.	46¾	
50	do	46¾	
50	do	s10 46	
200	do	46	
15	Mil. & P. Du C. 2d Pre.	54	
28	Clev., Col. & Cin. R.	101¾	
100	Erie Railway	26¾	
200	do	b30 26¾	
360	do	26¾	
50	do	26½	
150	Erie Railway Pref.	47	
100	Mich. Cen. R.	45	
50	do	b30 45	
50	Harlem Railroad	10¾	
100	Harlem R. Prefer'd	24¾	
50	Reading Railroad	33	
20	Panama Railroad	110½	
550	Ill. Cen. R. scrip	57	
28	Clev., Col. & Cin. R.	101¾	
400	Cleve. & Toledo R.	30	
100	Chic. & R. Isl'd R.	46¾	
50	do	46¾	
50	do	s10 46	
100	do	46	
15	Mil. & P. Du C. 2d Pre.	54	

TUESDAY, Dec. 24—P. M.

The Stock Market early in the day exhibited the accustomed dullness of the holiday season. There was a very light business at the early Board, and on the calculation that this inactivity would lead to lower figures, some sales of New-York Central and other Railways were made at a concession of ¼@½ ₱ cent. from Monday's prices. The lowest point for Central was 76½, and Erie 26¾. The Western Stocks sold in about the same proportion, not quite so low as compared with yesterday's rates. At the Second Board the whole face of the Share Market was changed. A rumor obtained currency in regard to the early surrender of MASON and SLIDELL, which stimulated the bidding to 77@77½ for Central, 27@27½ for Erie, and other shares in proportion. The effect of this rumor and the general good feeling on Pacific Mail was to advance the price to 87½ ₱ cent. The Western Shares were ¼@½ ₱ cent. higher on Toledo, and ¼@½ on several other descriptions. After the breaking up of the Second Board the reaction was to lower prices again. The irrational nature of the rumor referred to was taken into account, and the sudden advance upon it was followed by lower offers to sell. Late in the afternoon the following bids were current for the Railways, the feeling on the Street being firm, irrespective of the rumor referred to:

New-York Central	77¼	Michigan Guaranteed	38½
Erie	27½	Pacific	87
Erie Preferred	48	Panama	110½
Rock Island	46¼	U. S. 6s, 1881	89½
Mich. Central	45	Missouris	38½

The limited business doing in Stocks has diminished the inquiry for Money, at call, among the Brokers, and the supply from lenders at 7 ₱ cent. is fully equal to the demand. The Exchanges on England for the Boston mail closed at 110½ for Bankers' bills, and 108½@109¾ as the range for Merchant bills, according to the credits drawn against. A very large amount of Exchange against the Export of Domestic Produce has been made this week. *No such weekly return of the value of this Export has ever before been reported for the port of New-York.* The aggregate is considerably over FOUR MILLIONS, while no previous return has quite reached that figure. The following is the comparative statement of the Exports (exclusive of specie) from New-York to Foreign Ports, for the week ending Dec. 24 and since Jan. 1:

	1859.	1860.	1861.
For the week	$1,058,057	$2,638,385	$4,295,653
Previously reported	67,892,656	98,247,581	131,648,523
Since January 1	$66,730,612	$100,905,966	$135,944,176

The following are the bids made to-day for the Railway Mortgages:

N. Y. Cen. sixes	91	Mich. Cent. n.f. 8's, '82	90
N. Y. Cen. sevens, '64	97¾	Northern Ia. firsts	80
Erie firsts	101¾	N. Ind., Gos. Line	73
Erie thirds, '83	89	M. S. & N. In s.f. 7 ₱ c.	77
Erie fourths, '80	72	Ill. Cen. 7 ₱ c., '75	84¾
Erie fifths	65	L. C. & Mil. L. G. Bds.	12
Hudson firsts, '69	103¾	Chi. & N. W. s. f.	80
Hudson seconds, s. f., '80	94

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25, 1861.

Amusements this Evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Afternoon and Evening—ZAMPILLA'S OBSTINATION—RAOUL—THE SCHOOLMASTER.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE—Afternoon and Evening—LITTLE TOM—ROBINSON CRUSOE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN—Afternoon and Evening—HERRMANN'S SOIREES DE PRESTIDIGITATION.

NIBLO'S SALOON—PEAK FAMILY.

WALLACK'S THEATRE—UP AT THE HILLS—TOM NOCDY'S SECRET.

WINTER GARDEN—LAKES OF KILLARNEY—THE MAGIC JOKE—BARNEY THE BARON.

BOWERY THEATRE—Morning, Afternoon and Evening—GREAT NATIONAL CIRCUS.

HOPE CHAPEL—CAPT. WILLIAMS' SOUTH SEA WHALING VOYAGE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM—LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, LIVING WHALE, &c., AT ALL HOURS—DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES AT 2½ AND 7½ O'CLOCK.

THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD—No. 563 Broadway

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS—FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR—No. 548 Broadway.

SCHAUS' GALLERY—No. 749 Broadway—GIGNOUX'S INDIAN SUMMER—9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE REBELLION.

There is nothing whatever, this morning, from Washington, relative to the affair of the Trent. The dispatches by the *America* reached Washington last night, and will probably be the subject of Cabinet consideration this morning.

There is nothing new of importance from the army of the Potomac. Extensive preparations have been made in all the camps for the celebration of Christmas, and dinners, *fêtes*, balls and games are to be the order of the day. The President and Cabinet intend making a trip down the Potomac on board the new steam sloop-of-war *Pensacola*.

Late advices from the Upper Potomac indicate the probability that the rebel Gen. JACKSON has given up the idea of crossing the river for the present. All his command, with the exception of a few for picket duty, have gone to Martinsburgh, though it is understood that the boats intended to be used in crossing have not yet been removed. In all the artillery skirmishes which have taken place at Williamsport and Falling Waters, the rebels have suffered all the damage, not one of our men having been killed or wounded. The loss of the rebels has been considerable.

According to our dispatch from Fortress Monroe, the skirmish at Newmarket Bridge, mentioned yesterday, was not so serious an affair as the first reports led us to suppose. Five companies of the Twentieth New-York were looking for a lost man, when they found themselves surrounded by rebel cavalry and infantry, but appear to have had little trouble in cutting their way through, in which operation only six men were wounded, while the rebels lost, at least, ten killed and a number wounded. Seven dead rebels were found the next morning where the skirmish took place—one that of an officer. It is stated that a company of negroes were engaged in this skirmish on the side of the rebels. Our dispatch also announces the arrival at Fortress Monroe of the bark *Island City*, from Boston, having on board 249 prisoners released from Fort Warren, to be exchanged for an equal number of our men, held in Richmond.

Gen. POPE is not disposed to remain content with his recent successes, but continues his operations against the rebels with unabated vigor. He has recently sent a portion of his command to Lexington, and dispatches received at headquarters in St. Louis state that two ferry-boats used by the rebels had been destroyed there, together with the foundry located there, and that two rebel Captains, a Lieutenant, and several men and horses have been captured. One thousand of the prisoners recently captured by Gen. POPE arrived in St. Louis on Monday night.

Gen. MAGOFFIN of Kentucky, seems recently to have become a full convert to the doctrine of Union, judging from the fact, that he has approved of all the bills recently passed by the Legislature in that State.

With reference to the Mexican question, it now appears that our Government some time ago, addressed a friendly note to the Ministers of England, France and Spain, informing their Governments, through them, that the United States could not join with them in the demands upon Mexico—at the same time notifying them that arrangements were about to be made between the United States and Mexico, whereby England and France would be able to secure the interest on the bonds held by them. This proposition, however, was not satisfactory, and was declined.

The Quebec *Chronicle* thinks that orders should at once be issued, prohibiting the exportation of arms, ammunition, and warlike stores of all kinds. Large supplies, it states, have been forwarded from Canadian stores to the American side of the lines.

FROM EUROPE.

We have now full details of the *America's* news and letters from our correspondents in England and France. Our London correspondent says that the British Government is preparing for war with the utmost energy; that business men are getting ready for the storm, and that nearly the whole English nation, including the mob, is reveling in literal madness on account of the alleged insult to the English bunting. The air was thick with *canards* of every conceivable kind. Nevertheless, a majority of the ministry and of the commercial classes are opposed to war, and if MASON and SLIDELL were returned, a rational reaction may be expected. *That*, however, is universally demanded as a preliminary to any negotiations whatever. The Secessionists in Europe are in raptures over the prospect, and expect that the English Government will presently be their avowed ally. The British Press, or at least a part of it, is more temperate in its comments than it was a fortnight before; the *Times*, however, is as malignant as ever. Gen. SCOTT's letter had produced a mollifying effect in some quarters. Several liberal members of Parliament, among others JOHN BRIGHT, had made efforts to calm the excitement, but apparently with little effect. We have a report of the anti-war meeting in Dublin, and the speech of T. O'DONOGHUE, which was received with bravos, yells, hisses and cheers. It appears, however, that the Irish malignity against England is strong as ever. The *Shipping Gazette* shows that England is not dependent on this country for Breadstuffs; and that in that respect a state of war will make little difference to her. The English secession Presses were feeding the people with daily doses of the most astonishing lies—some of which we copy. The Queen's proclamation forbidding the export of war material, is working to the damage of the manufacturers of certain kinds of arms.

Our Paris correspondent says that the prospective war between England and America occupies the entire attention of France. The French sympathize entirely with the English on the legal question involved; but the Press there is more discreet and respectable than in England. French liberals assert that the warlike preparations in England are merely a parade and a show, intended as much for Europe as America,—but still think we had better accede to any reasonable English demands. In regard to the alleged fact that the *San Jacinto* had run foul of a French vessel, the Government had issued orders to the Press not to seek to magnify the affair.

Our budget of European letters and newspaper extracts will be found unusually interesting this morning.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

The Senate only was in session yesterday—the House having adjourned until to-morrow. Several petitions looking to the emancipation of slaves were presented. The Committee on Naval Affairs was instructed to inquire into the manner in which war vessels have been fitted out at the Navy-yards, rumors of great extravagance having obtained currency. A petition of citizens of Boston relative to the freedom of the Press, was presented by Mr. HALE. After an Executive Session, the Senate also adjourned until to-morrow.

GENERAL NEWS.

CHARLES JEFFERDS was yesterday convicted of murder in the first degree for the killing of WALTON and MATTHEWS, on the 30th of June, 1860. The Court sat from 10 o'clock yesterday morning until nearly 11 at night, and was crowded the entire time. The jury were out an hour and a quarter. On the announcement of the verdict, JEFFERDS rose, and, in an unfaltering voice, facing the jury, said, "Gentlemen, you have convicted an innocent man."

Gen. W. T. SHERMAN returned to his command in Missouri, on the 21st.

Two privates in the One Hundreth Regiment, stationed at Toronto, Canada, undertook to desert on Thursday, by crossing to Rochester in a sail-boat. They were pursued by two or three indignant Britishers in a row-boat, and were overhauled when they had got within five or six miles of the American shore. Refusing to heave to, the pursuers shot at the fugitives with a gun, wounding each of them. They then took them back to the Fort without difficulty.

The Portland *Argus* says an office was opened in that city, about a week since, for enlisting men for the navy, and already upward of ninety men have been obtained and sent forward for the service.

Gov. CURTIN, of Pennsylvania, has formally appointed Lieut.-Col. WISTAR to the command of the regiment under the late Col. BAKER. The commission was accompanied by a private letter, eulogizing Col. WISTAR's bravery in the battle at Ball's Bluff, and promising to promote any individuals in his regiment whom he might designate as deserving.

Gov. SPRAGUE, of Rhode Island, has issued a proclamation confirming the conventional line recently established as the boundary between that State and Massachusetts.

Gen. REYNOLDS, who has distinguished himself by his brilliant exploits in Western Virginia, returned to Indianapolis on Saturday last, and had a most enthusiastic reception.

The prize schooner *Harmony* was sold by Marshal MILLWARD at Philadelphia, on Monday, for $155, and the prize schooner *Specie* for $625. The sales were attended by but few persons, and the bidding was confined to three or four of them. The Marshal also sold 2,488 sacks of salt, the cargo of the prize brig *Ariel*, which brought 83 cents per sack.

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held yesterday, but the business transacted was entirely routine, and confined mainly to the auditing of bills reported on. The Board ordered the payment of the bill of HASBROUCK & Co., which has been a bone of contention since 1859, and for the payment of which a *mandamus* has been issued, but not without a protracted discussion.

The Board of Aldermen met last evening, and transacted some routine business of little importance. The Board of Councilmen held a brief extra meeting, for the purpose of clearing the calendar of unfinished business. There was nothing whatever of general interest, except that permission was given to the Steuben Monument Association to erect a monument to Baron STEUBEN, in Stuyvesant-square, provided the same was an ornament to the City. A large number of bills for fitting up polling-places were referred to the Comptroller, with power. The Board will meet again on Thursday and Friday of this week.

On Monday night the Special Committee of the Board of Aldermen, appointed to investigate and report in relation to the propriety of selecting a location for a market on the line of the North River, north of Canal-street and south of Thirteenth-street, presented an elaborate report, covering the question of the merits of the present market system, and strongly recommending a reform. The investigation disclosed the inconveniences and unprofitableness of the City market property as at present managed, and revealed the advantages to be gained by the City, and by those using market facilities, by the inauguration of a system which they propose, and which is somewhat similar to the manner in which that portion of Washington Market, known as West Washington Market, is managed. They propose to purchase the ground bounded on the north by Twelfth-street, east by West-street and Tenth-avenue, south by Gansevoort-street, and West by Thirteenth-avenue and North River, and lay it out for market purposes. It does not seem to be any part of the plan for the City to erect imposing buildings upon it, but simply to rent the ground to market men, leaving them to erect their own stalls as they may deem most suitable for their business. Such a plan, it is shown, would be vastly more profitable to the City, and better for the market men and their customers.

The Stock market opened dull and weak yesterday, but in the afternoon prices were higher than on Monday, partly on political rumors not borne out by the Washington dispatches to the Associated Press. While the rumors were not generally believed, the impression obtained that before the end of the week the difficulty with England would be esteemed as virtually settled. New-York Central left off, 77½ ₩ cent. Exchange on England closed 110½ for Bankers', 108¾@109¾ for Produce bills.

Transactions in the General Markets on Tuesday were limited. Breadstuffs were quiet. Flour declined 5c.@10c. ₩ bbl. Wheat was heavy; Corn rather lower. Cotton was dull, and prices were nominal. The chief business in Provisions was in Bacon and Lard. Groceries were lightly dealt in, but holders were very firm. Metals, Oils, Naval Stores, Fish, Hemp, Seeds, Tallow and Whisky were inactive. The freight engagements were limited.

The Live Stock market was well supplied yesterday, considering the wants of buyers, which were very much restricted by the near approach of the holidays. Beeves numbered 3,235 head, many of them very large and fat. They sold slowly, the best at 10c., and so down to half that price. A few premium steers brought $325@$350 ₩ pair. The stock was scarcely sold. Sheep are scarce and higher. Good stock sells readily at 5c. ₩ lb., live weight. A few head of extra size and fatness brought $25 each. Hogs are in moderate supply and ¼c. higher. Stock well sold.

CONVICTION OF CHARLES JEFFERDS.—The trial of this unfortunate young man for the murder of MATTHEWS has resulted in a verdict of guilty. The case has been one of profound interest, and as such, has elicited the utmost skill of the legal gentlemen employed; and after a protracted inquiry, has certainly presented as thorough an analysis of the testimony as unsparing examinations and cross-examinations could procure. The testimony is such as we always regret to see relied upon in a criminal prosecution. The disgusting story of the detective; the depths of licentiousness, dissipation, and all manner of filth, through which the official avenger of blood was forced to wade, in pursuit of the murderer's secret; and the too obvious participation of strong drink in the confessions upon which the case mainly depended, are not the sort of instrumentalities right-minded people care to use or see used in the pursuit of truth and the promotion of social morality. But the story, vile as it is, has been told, and the jury interprets it as convicting the prisoner. The verdict, of course, declares him guilty of two murders. The same hand that struck down MATTHEWS was red from the slaughter of WALTON; and if JEFFERDS be answerable for the one fact, he is so also for the other; and in his entire inability to prove an *alibi* a strong presumption of his guilt, independently of the case made by the Police, unquestionably exists. The counsel for the prisoner will no doubt move a new trial, and perhaps obtain it; but they will have undertaken a hopeless task, unless they come prepared to account for the whereabouts of the convict at the hour when the two homicides were perpetrated.

There is that in the evidence which excites earnest compassion for this youthful culprit. It is painfully clear that his associations and surroundings have been such as to educate him thoroughly for the tragic part he is filling. He has been taught obedience to no moral principle. Bad passions and vicious tastes have been permitted to run wild; and self-indulgence has become a habit, not to be checked by any ordinary restraints. A character so fostered could hardly fail to produce precisely these fruits; and, if we deplore the sad case to which it has brought this one unfortunate, how much more deeply are we to lament a social system which daily and yearly relaxes in favor of just this sort of early training. JEFFERDS is a normal product of a very prevalent mode of city society. He is not its solitary fruit.

Our English Relations.

It is perfectly evident, from the whole tenor of our foreign advices, that the English people were at the latest dates in a perfect paroxysm of rage and indignation. Every pretence of listening to the dictates of common sense had been abandoned. War with the United States was the popular and paramount passion. Everybody, high and low, rich and poor, was striving to outclamor everybody else in his fulminations of wrath and revenge against this country. There was not the slightest disposition to listen to explanations, or to wait for apologies. It was a foregone conclusion that they were forthwith to have war, and the whole fabric of English society was rocking and rolling on the waves of this swelling and surging tide.

In one respect this very excess of passion affords a guarantee of peace. For it is certain to subside, and the time for decision will arrive in the midst of the inevitable reaction. Indeed, the extreme excitement of the English rests on the assumption, that the *United States are resolved to have a war with England*. This is the universal feeling. It seems to be universally believed that we have been seeking an occasion for hostilities,—that our resentment of the recognition by England of the South as belligerents, has been so extreme as to demand a war, and that they are only accepting the issue which we have thus tendered. It is assumed that the affair of the *Trent* was a deliberately planned insult,—intended to provoke a war,—and that there is not the slightest hope of any explanations or apologies which will avert the necessity of such an issue.

That this assumption is utterly groundless is perfectly well known here. That the action of our Government will prove it to be so, and will strip the English of all excuse for such an opinion, we have not the slightest doubt. We presume the English Government does not share the insane passion which possesses the English people, and that its demands upon our Government have been made with temper and moderation:—and that Mr. Seward will have very little difficulty in satisfying the English Ministry of the utter groundlessness of the suspicion which seems to haunt the English mind. We should not, indeed, be greatly surprised if it should prove, after all, that Mr. SEWARD has got the start of them, and had actually sent explanations and all due apologies on this subject *long before any demand for redress was made*. Those who have examined the volume of his foreign correspondence will remember that it has not been his wont to await complaints of anything that demanded explanation. And the extraordinary delay which attends the movements of Lord LYONS finds a very satisfactory reason in the supposition that Mr. ADAMS has been already charged to present the whole case directly to the British Government in London.

There is only one case in which war with England seems to us probable. If the English Government has resolved upon war—or if, believing it to be inevitable, sooner or later, it has determined to select its own time and opportunity, and to strike now, instead of waiting until we are stronger—it is quite possible that we may be forced into collision. But our Government, we have no doubt, will do everything in its power to defeat such a purpose, if it exists. It is the first duty of the President to thwart such a design, if it is actually entertained. Nor can we believe that English statesmen have such a purpose. We can see many reasons of temporary expediency which might reconcile them to a war with us, if its effects would pass away with the return of peace. But though the war might end in one year, a century would not remove the seeds of hatred which it would implant in the heart of the American people. England can have no possible interest in permanently driving from her alliance this great branch of the same race to which she belongs, and in rendering it forever impossible for her to count upon our friendship and support.

THE NATIONAL WAR TAX.—The Governor of New-Mexico, in his Message to the Territorial Legislature, which met at the beginning of this month, says that, "while the war tax is just and right in itself," he thinks "New-Mexico should be relieved from the payment of it." He gives as reason for this, that the Territory suffers from Indian depredations fifty thousand dollars a year and upwards; and he thinks that if this fact were presented to Congress, a law for the exemption of New-Mexico would be passed. In contrast with these lugubrious statements when speaking of the war tax, the Governor in another part of his message, gives the rosiest view of the financial condition and general prosperity of the Territory. The receipts paid into the Treasury during the year considerably exceeded the expenditures. The public debt is only twenty-three hundred and four dollars, and there is money enough in the hands of the officers, he says, to pay every dime of that. The gold mines of the Territory are spoken of as the richest and most productive upon the continent of America, and the principal mine is only thirty miles from the capital at which the Governor pens his message. The copper, iron and coal mines yield abundance of ore; iron and leather abound; wool can be had for the clipping; and the Governor says that a "full-grown sheep can be raised at less cost than a Spring chicken!" It is certainly very shabby and beggarly, after this, for Gov. CONNELLY or the Territory to ask to be relieved from paying into the National Treasury the trifling war-tax of $63,000, which is the sum apportioned to New-Mexico.

We notice that the Press of Missouri, too, say that it will be impossible to collect the tax in that State—such has been the impoverishment and ruin of the people by the rebellion; and Mr. NOELL has introduced into Congress a joint resolution to postpone its collection for a year. Is there no mode of raising this tax in Missouri that can be discovered by the Legislature without further grinding the poor farmers and traders whom the secession ruffians of the State have robbed and peeled? There are thousands of *rich rebels* in the essentially rich State of Missouri; and they at least should pay their share toward counteracting the ruin into which they have helped to precipitate the State and the nation. The *rebel* portion of the population, certainly, do not deserve exemption.

The fact is that it will be impossible to exempt any State or any Territory from the payment of this tax—though, in Missouri, it would doubtless be wise in the local State authorities who collect it, in some cases to exempt individuals. If New-Mexico may plead Indian depredations as a ground for exemption, so may Nevada, Colorado, and others of the Territories; if Missouri may ask for total exemption because of losses by her own rebels; so may Maryland and Kentucky; while States dependent on navigation and shipping might plead the total ruin of these by the rebellion; commercial States might plead their half-destroyed commerce; others their ruined manufactures; and the tens of millions lost in this impoverished City by Southern repudiation, the tens of millions lost by the paralysis of trade, might be put down as an offset against the claims of the nation.

This onerous war-tax is one of the consequences, and one of the least terrible consequences, too, of this Satanic rebellion; and those who are innocent, and those who are poor, must unfortunately suffer in the universal calamity.

Gen. Sherman and the Reporters.

It has already been stated, in our dispatches from Port Royal, that Gen. SHERMAN had issued an order directing all newspaper reporters to leave that department of the army, as their presence was found to be injurious to the service. Such a circular was sent to the reporters on the 15th of December, in the following terms:

[CIRCULAR.]

To the Gentlemen of the Press at Port Royal, and within the limits of the Expeditionary Corps:

It becomes my serious duty to say to you, gentlemen, that the presence of the reporters of the public Press has become productive of serious injury to our cause, by conveying indirectly, but quite promptly to the enemy, information of the least movement that is made, if not a pretty correct idea of our plans.

We feel, and justly appreciate the expressions of favor and kindness, many of them far beyond our deserts, we have certainly received at your hands.

But, notwithstanding such pleasant personal considerations, a grave duty devolves upon me to say to you all, that the future operations of this portion of the American army will not admit of the presence of the reporters of the public Press.

With much regret,

T. W. SHERMAN,
Brigadier-Gen. Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS, E. C.
PORT ROYAL, Dec. 15, 1861.

We understand that a subsequent conference with the gentlemen of the Press, led to explanations which induced Gen. SHERMAN to modify his decision. It seems that the injurious publications in question were reports of a *reconnoissance* made toward Fort Pulaski, published in the columns of one of our cotemporaries, accompanied with plans and full descriptions of the works which our army was engaged in erecting. It was ascertained that these publications were the result of thoughtlessness rather than of any intent to do injury, and that all the properly accredited representatives of the Press were perfectly willing to conform to any directions which the General might give concerning the publication of military movements. Gen. SHERMAN accordingly decided to permit such correspondents to remain, with this understanding, and to hold them responsible for any violation of it.

There can be no doubt that he has taken a judicious course. It is simply impossible to prevent news of army movements being sent to the Press. If it is not communicated by recognized and responsible correspondents, it will be sent by secret agents for whose accuracy or good faith there can be no guarantee. The true way, therefore, to arrange the matter, is to recognize the necessity of newspaper correspondence, and then establish such relations with the reporters as will hold them responsible for what they send. There is not the slightest difficulty in doing this, as no newspaper can possibly have the least interest in publishing anything that may be injurious to the public service. If journals do err in this way, it is safe to assume that it is by accident and not from design.

The great difficulty which public men, and especially military men, encounter in dealing with the Press, grows out of the impression they have that Journalists are a distinct race, and must be dealt with after some peculiar style. One class of men think they must make war upon them as enemies—thwart them in their efforts to get information, and make them feel that they exist only by sufferance and greatly against the will of the superior powers. These are the men who regard it as a fine thing to be always denouncing the Press as a nuisance, and proclaiming the summary measures *they* would take with it if they only had the control of affairs. All that is ever accomplished by such a policy is to drive reporters into clandestine and unreliable modes of procuring intelligence, by shutting up to them all the official channels of authentic information, and thus increasing the evil which these men profess to deprecate. Another class, going to the opposite extreme, fancy they must always be *toadying* the Press—purchasing its favor by ostentatious courtesies which are, however, so palpably interested and enforced as to lose all semblance of merit, and incur only the contempt of those whom they are designed to conciliate.

If men in public position will regard journalists as simply gentlemen, and treat them accordingly, (until they discover that they do not deserve to be so treated,) they will have no difficulty whatever in dealing with the Press, and in making it useful to themselves and the country. Whatever can be properly and wisely given to the public should be communicated to it:—what cannot, should either be entirely withheld, or given with directions against its publication, and any violation of confidence should be punished precisely as a similar breach of honorable obligation in any other walk of life would be resented. Whenever men in official position can learn to act in this manner toward the Press, they will have no difficulty in maintaining satisfactory relations with it.

Christmas, 1861.

It may be that the awful drama that crowds the time, all but puts out of mind the sweet pastoral of Bethlehem, which comes down to us balmy and fragrant through these twenty centuries, and lives again in men's thought this Chrismas Day. "On earth, peace, good will to men," is the sentiment of the day. Alas! it is to us an aspiration; not an actuality. For while the customary chimes peal out their silvery gladness on the air, the ear catches from afar the hoarse braying of the trumpet which summons brother to battle with brother. Even the Christmas tree cannot but, for many of us, cast a gloomy shadow; there are blank spaces on its branches, where eyes that we have loved have shone and smiled; eyes that now, on the far outpost, keep watch for the advancing foe; eyes, it may be, from which the light is forever departed.

But, if the events of the hour attemper the tone with which the lips to-day speak the wonted wish of "Merry Christmas," there is no doubt much in them that may well carry to the heart a deep joy, passing all merriment. And we can, without either mockery or idle speech, wish our readers such a Happy Christmas as may well come from the consciousness that we are permitted to be actors in the greatest event of the Age.

And—following the serious promptings of the hour—there is very much in the present fortune of our republic that gives us a right, such as our experience does not match, to recall what manner of associations cluster around Christmas. It is permitted us to remember that He whose nativity Christmas commemorates, gave to the world the doctrine of the unity and brotherhood of all the races of men. This sublime Idea of the intense spiritual oneness of mankind ended forever pagan caste and exclusion, and opened the new and nobler dispensation of modern civilization. And this Idea is the very kelson of the American Republic. It flames forth at the head of the Declaration—the grand Christian humanitarian truth, All men are born free and equal. Our fathers shed their blood to incarnate that idea in a State.

Those, therefore, who have lifted up their hands against the Republic, seek no less than to blot out the grand animating truth which is the vital soul of modern civilization. It is strangely consistent that they long directed their efforts to impugn that very doctrine of human brotherhood and equality which Christ taught, and which Democracy embodies. Those barriers of caste and race which the ages have been engaged in pulling down, they seek to build up, and, in place of the admirable realization of freedom and equality founded by the Fathers, to establish a Government based on blank paganism and atheism.

That surely is not an unjoyous observance of Christmas which finds us standing sternly to the defence of a State founded on principles that were the teaching of the Founder of Christian civilization. Let selfish men and selfish nations sneer, the future will recognize that the sacred ark of the covenant of Democracy was intrusted to our keeping. What matters more or less of defeats or stops or seeming failures, when we *know* that the triumph of those principles are assured in the very framework of the world. It is not in the power of our own weakness or the folly of men in high places, to wreck the cause, for the whole stream of history and current of progress flows that way. As for those who have put themselves in opposition to the advancing front of civilization, they will be crushed. Were not these things so, to-day might well be the reverse of a merry Christmas. But with God for voucher, and a half-a-million faithful arms to execute his work, we can well trust that the next return of this festival will have

"Rung out the darkness of the land,
Rung in the Christ that is to be."

The Case of the Colored Steward William Tillman.

The decision of Judge SHIPMAN, which we published yesterday, in the salvage case of the *S. J. Waring*, deserves some attention. The action, as will be remembered, was brought to recover salvage compensation for the services rendered by the colored steward WILLIAM TILLMAN, and three others, for recovering the schooner from the hands of a prize crew, who had been put on board of her on her capture by the privateer *Jeff. Davis*. They had succeeded in carrying her within one day's sail of a port in South Carolina, when TILLMAN and one of the crew named STEDDING, undertook and effected her recapture, in which they killed the prize-master and his two mates. After the recapture, they, with the assistance of another sailor and a passenger, navigated the vessel in safety to New-York, although not one of them was acquainted with navigation. TILLMAN was the chief actor in the recapture; and in the subsequent sailing of the vessel, in which he supplemented his own experience as a sailor, with extracts from BLUNT's Coast Pilot read to him by the passenger.

The owners of the vessel vigorously contested the claim of the libelants to salvage. The principle of the case was identical with that of the *Cuba*, decided some months since by the same Judge, and the present decision gives no additional force to the compilation of authorities in that case, except that the same conclusion is arrived at on a further review of them, after strenuous argument by the counsel for the claimants in the present case.

The claimants made several points in this case which were not made in that of the *Cuba*. They urged that the killing of the prize-master and his two mates, was an act marked with ferocity, which the Court should not countenance. But the Judge holds that in an attack by two men, armed with only a hatchet, a knife and a small pocket-pistol, upon five men well armed, the fact that three out of the five were killed, is not one which diminishes the peril to the sailors, or the advantage to the owners of the vessel. We think public sentiment will sustain him in that conclusion. If the views of the claimants were correct, TILLMAN's act was murder, and he should have been tried and hung instead of rewarded.

The further objections that the salvors were ignorant of navigation; that the *Waring* was in no danger, because it would have been the duty of the Government to recompense her owners if she had been lost to them thus by wrongful violence; and, moreover, that TILLMAN should not be rewarded, because he was actuated in what he did by a desire to prevent himself from being sold into Slavery, Judge SHIPMAN brushes away and awards the salvors the sum of $17,000 as salvage, the vessel and cargo being valued at $45,000.

The amount involved renders it probable that the case will be appealed, and we shall look with some interest for the decision of the appellate Courts upon the main question of law involved in it, viz.: whether a seaman can recover salvage for thus recovering his owners' property when captured by privateers. That the interests of our commerce require the establishment of that rule, we have no doubt. The salvage awarded in this case, and in that of the *Cuba*, cannot fail to render the holding of captured vessels by prize crews much more difficult than it would otherwise be. Seamen will be more ready to incur the hazards of attempted recapture, and owners may well afford to reward them for incurring them.

The Hospital at Port Royal.

Among the veracious reports on the health of our troops, with which it is the ambition of some of our cotemporaries to enrich their columns, one of the most original has recently appeared in the *Tribune*. That journal gravely stated on Saturday that three of our invalid soldiers at Port Royal had been "*frozen to death*" in their tents. Now, no one who has ever traveled in Georgia or South Carolina at the present season of the year, can fail to know that, in the temperature which usually prevails in that district, such an event could not possibly have taken place. The statement is an obvious misrepresentation, and our too pliant cotemporary has been imposed upon by some one who has an interest in exciting the public mind by falsehood. The fact is the weather at Port Royal has been so mild during the present month that, as our special correspondent stated in the letter we published on Saturday, Summer garments were still being worn, and invariably, as is well known, the mean temperature throughout the brief Winter is considerably above the freezing point.

This sensation story seems to have originated in the over fervid imaginations of a certain clique of persons, who wish to construct in that malarious region a new hospital at great expense to the public, and contrary to the expressed wish of Gen. MCCLELLAN, which was concurred in by Surgeon-Gen. FINLAY and Quartermaster-Gen. MEIGS. It is the opinion of these high authorities that with judicious drainage, careful ventilation and easily practicable extension, the existing hospital accommodations may be rendered fully adequate. But it seems the dissenting officials, instead of obeying the orders of their superiors, are inclined to be recalcitrant, and hope to gain their point by operating on the public mind, and by imparting their discontent to the newspapers.

The hospitals now contain about 300 men; which is a smaller proportion than might have been expected. For the reception of these sick soldiers there are a number of hospital tents and a substantial brick building formerly used by the rebels as a barrack. The latter is a commodious edifice, and may, with a little ingenuity, sanitary skill and labor, be converted into an excellent hospital for temporary purposes. But the objectors demand, it seems, an extensive new building, such as in the present and prospective exigencies of the public service, will be unnecessary, and cannot be afforded. They have designed a hospital no less, according to report, than 1,200 feet long, which is arranged very injudiciously to occupy three sides of a square, and to admit only 300 patients. The plans have actually been prepared, and were sent to this City a few days ago. But as we have said, the superior authorities interfered, and the scheme was pronounced impracticable and inexpedient. How far the disappointed contractor may be in collusion with the architectural doctors in stirring up a newspaper excitement does not appear. Certainly the spreading of rumors so imaginary and incredible as the one we have noticed will not further their views. We are assured that in all the campaigns of the first NAPOLEON and of the Duke of Wellington, no hospitals approaching the dimensions and cost contemplated by the gentlemen in question were ever found necessary for such a force as is likely, for the present, to be on duty at Port Royal.

It is gratifying to find that the average amount of sickness at this point is on the decrease, and under all the circumstances, we must say that to urge forward the project of erecting a new hospital in defiance of the expressed disapproval of the General in Chief and of the highest medical authority in the army is, to say the least, an impropriety to which no respectable newspaper ought for a moment to lend its sanction. To say that Surgeon-Gen. FINLAY concurred with Gen. MCCLELLAN in opposing such a flagrant job, such a profligate waste of the public money as the construction of this ill-contrived hospital, is to pay a deserved though unintentional compliment to the long-tried fidelity, judgment and capacity of the present chief of the Medical Bureau.

THE PROVINCIAL TEMPEST.—The war fever is at its height in Canada. To read the provincial journals one would suppose the great empire of Canada had received some greivous insult which demanded the utter extirpation of her foes. It is a little amusing to reflect how perfectly quiet Canada was under the *Trent* "outrage," until she heard from England. It was not until the old lion growled that the whelps thought of whining. Canada looks abroad for her resentments, as well as for her opinions, Governors, and other luxuries.

The Sailing of the Europa.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.

The mails, per the steamship *Europa*, will close at nine o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday) morning, and she will sail at noon.

MARCHING ALONG.—Twenty-five thousand copies of this, Mr. BRADBURY's new army song, are now ready for gratuitous distribution among our soldiers. They will be delivered in packages of three or four hundred per regiment to any person authorized to receive them, at No. 421, Broome-street, New-York.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS.

Yesterday was thoroughly Christmas weather. Old Thor had it thoroughly his own way, and made us know that it was time, much as our pockets might object to it, to sally out and purchase some toy or token to gladden the hearts of the little ones at home. Notwithstanding the war, the stores presented as gay an appearance as ever. Articles of every description were displayed for sale in the windows, from a miniature baby that could say "ma-ma," and "pa-pa," to a hippopotamus, that almost rivaled BARNUM'S in magnitude.

Paterfamilias and materfamilias were busily engaged in making purchases; the various fancy stores were thronged, and many a purchase was made that when it was handed to the recipient would make him or her imagine there was no such thing as "hard times."

The fruit-stores were gaily decorated with holly, evergreens and other shrubs, indicative of Christmas. Fruit was displayed in the most tempting manner, making those with whom it was really war prices and war times imitate, involuntarily, the fox that declared—when he found that the grapes, for which he was longing, were beyond his reach—that he knew very well they were sour, and not worth the plucking.

At the various markets, a fine display of poultry, meats, &c., were made, fully equal to any previous Christmas Eve. Early in the day the poulterers were fully besieged, and had as much as they could do to fully sustain the demand for turkeys, geese and other birds, without which no holiday, it is supposed, can be properly kept up. Husbands, when they had made their purchases, proudly shouldered the poultry, or, holding it by the legs, allowing the head to trail on the hard and frosty ground, marched in triumph to their homes, and exhibited with pride the size and plumpness of the bird.

It was just such a day yesterday, cold, crisp, and bracing, as to make a man, or woman, or child either, for that matter, in the most exhilarating spirits. Staid old gentlemen ran over crossways, and almost shouted in the buoyancy of their feelings. Small boys "cut out" slides in the gutters, and actually did the same upon the sidewalk, much to the disgust of elderly parties who thought it was only the wicked who should stand upon slippery places.

At many of the English houses, the evergreens with which the places are decorated were draped with black, in honor of the memory of Prince ALBERT. Indeed, the whole English element seemed to be plunged into profound grief at the death of the Queen's illustrious consort.

The various Roman Catholic churches in the City are all beautifully decorated; the edifices are hung with evergreens, many of them in the most tasteful and elegant manner. At St. Patrick's Cathedral High Mass will be celebrated by the Very Rev. Father STARRS, at 10 o'clock A. M.; the pyramids of the sanctuary being brilliantly illuminated with tapers. Other churches, of the same denomination, will also be brilliantly illuminated and decked with flowers and shrubs blooming at this period of the year.

The Protestant churches will also celebrate the day in having services suitable to the occasion. Trinity Church is handsomely decorated with evergreens, in a manner that is perfectly chaste, tasteful and elegant, choristers' stalls, pulpit and the entrance each being gracefully decorated. Yesterday a magnificent Christmas tree was lighted up, and the children of the Sunday school were marshaled in to have their annual Christmas festival. Upwards of three hundred and fifty participated in the joyous occasion, all of whom carried off some trinket or toy to commemorate the day.

Previous to the services Mr. JAMES E. AYLIFFE rang the following tunes upon the chimes of Trinity:

Ringing the changes on eight bells.
Evening Hymn.
A concerto on Rondo form, with various modulations, in majors and minors keys.
Portugal Hymn.
Evening Bells.
Christmas Carol.
Vesper Hymn.

A number of people were present, who listened with evident delight, after which the children sang a Christmas carol most delightfully, the words having been written by Rev. Dr. OGILBY, and the music by Mr. CUTLER. It commences as follows:

Choir—Hosanna to King David's Son,
Descended from the Heavenly Throne!
In Christmas songs we hail His birth,
Who brought salvation to the earth.
Chorus—Hosanna to King David's Son!
Hosanna to King David's Son!
Hosanna in the highest!

Other festivities were then gone into, and the children left perfectly charmed with the whole affair.

At night, Mr. AYLIFFE again rung the chimes, and ushered in Christmas morn by a joyous peal. Late as the hour was, quite a number of people lingered under the shadows of Trinity, and hearkened with rapt attention to the merry bells, as they rung out their melodious tones upon the dark night.

To-day a full choral service will be given, when the choristers will sing selections from the Messiah. Before the services the chimes will again be rung; the following tunes having been selected:

Ringing the changes on eight bells.
Samson, from HANDEL'S Chorus, "Then round about the starry Heavens."
Sicilian Mariner's Hymn.
PLEYEL'S Hymn.
Christmas Carol.
Ringing the Chimes.
Old Hundred.

At the conclusion the pensioners of Trinity will be regaled with good old Christmas cheer, as is the custom. Turkeys have been provided, consequently all the recipients will be enabled, for at least one day in the year, to partake of a good dinner.

With the Germans great preparations are also being made to keep up the day with a sufficient amount of hilarity. Nearly all of the various Societies have made arrangements for a ball, sociable, or something else equally jovial, and no doubt, as is their wont, will enjoy themselves to the utmost extent.

Though all the above preparations are being made for a joyful Christmas in our midst, many a hearty "God bless them" was uttered, and a fervent "Merry Christmas" was wished to the brave fellows who are away fighting for the support of the Constitution and the Union.

COUNTRY MARKETS UP-TOWN.

Report of the Common Council Committee, Showing the Advantage of a Change from the Lower Wards—Proposal to Sell the Down-Town City Market Property.

The following report in relation to City markets was sent in to the Board of Aldermen on Monday night.

The Special Committee to whom was referred the preamble and resolution adopted by the Board in relation to a new location for market purposes at "some point on the North River, north of Canal-street and south of Fourteenth-street," beg leave respectfully to

REPORT.

That they have given to the subject referred to them that deliberate consideration which its importance with respect to the public interest seem to them to demand. After diligent inquiry and examination of localities within the limits prescribed by the resolution, they have been unable to find a site so suitable in all respects for market purposes as the block of ground familiarly known as the "Fort Gansevoort property," located on the North River between Gansevoort and Twelfth streets, and extending back to West-street and Tenth-avenue. The convenience of this location to the centre of our population, its ease of access to producers and dealers by railway and water carriage, and its great extent of area and length of water front together render its purchase almost indispensable for the purpose contemplated by your resolution. The advantages thus possessed by this property have not been heretofore overlooked by the Common Council, for we find that as early as May, 1854, a Special Committee of the Board of Councilmen were appointed with a view to ascertain the sum for which it could be purchased. That Committee consisting of Wm. M. Vermilye, John A. Kennedy and others, submitted a unanimous report strongly urging the purchase at the sum of $320,000. After stating in effect that its possession was indispensable to the City for market purposes, they conclude their report with the following language: "Every hour of delay in acquiring it is adding to the cost which the City must incur when it shall again become the owner." A Special Committee of the Board of Aldermen, of which Alderman BANTA was Chairman, also in May, 1857, reported unanimously in favor of the purchase. They stated, among other arguments, that a new market nearer the centre of population would in a few years be a matter of public convenience, if not necessity, and that a more eligible and cheaper site they confidently believed could not be procured on the North River. They recommended that the property be purchased for the sum of about $410,000, being the price for which it was offered to the Corporation in 1854, with interest thereon since that time. Neither report, however, was adopted by the Common Council, for the reason principally that a suit was pending in the Supreme Court, by one of our most respectable citizens, as a taxpayer, for the purpose of having the sale and conveyance of the same property by the Corporation in 1852 set aside for certain alleged irregularities. It was deemed more advisable, at least by one Board, to wait before completing the purchase until the determination of the action. The suit has since been finally decided in favor of the purchase from the City. Judge Mitchell, it is true, had in the first instance, at Special Term, made an order in effect setting aside the sale and conveyance. This order was, however, appealed from, to the General Term, by the defendants, and after an able argument on both sides it was reversed. Judge Balcom, on delivering the opinion of the Court, in May, 1858, used the following language: "I am of the opinion the complaint in this action does not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action." The case was then taken to the Court of Appeals, which rendered its judgment last Summer, affirming the decision of the General Term of the Supreme Court, and thus in effect establishing the title in the purchaser for the Corporation and his grantees. It may be well to add that the complaint in the action did not charge fraud against any of the parties, either the Common Council, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund or the purchasers. In fact, none could be shown. The Common Council had a clear undisputed right to direct as it did the Commissioners to dispose of the property, and it was sold by them with every requirement of the ordinance in relation to the sale of such property fully complied with. The Committee of the Board of Councilmen, before referred to, state in their report in this respect, as follows: "Your Committee do not recognize it as any part of their duty to enter into an examination of the manner in which the sale was effected when the property was disposed of, further than to satisfy themselves that it appeared to be a sale made by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, with all the sanctions of the law to sustain it. That during the period it was open for bids the offers were, by competion, largely increased in amount; that it was awarded to the highest bidder; that the present holder, in complying with the conditions of sale, received it on the order of the person to whom it was awarded." The Special Committee of the Board of Aldermen, previously mentioned, also, in effect, arrived at the same conclusion; it is also the result of the investigations of your Committee.

Your Committee have conferred with the present owner of the property, in relation to its purchase by the Corporation, and he has submitted the annexed offer of sale. It will be seen, on referring to such offer, that the price now asked is $444,000, and the assumption by the Corporation of the principal and interest of the mortgage given by Mr. Varnum to the City on the conveyance of the property to him, together with all the taxes and assessments, if any, unpaid thereon. It is also proposed that the payment of the sum above mentioned, be in the bonds of the Corporation, one half payable with interest, in five years, and the other half in ten years from the delivery of the deed. The Common Council should, in the opinion of your Committee, secure the property at this price. They deem it no more than a fair value for it, and believe that its purchase will be of material benefit to the public. It will not only afford an ample site for market accommodation, but secure to the City an extensive and valuable water-front. The price now asked for the property does no doubt, when compared with the sum at which the Corporation disposed of it in 1852, seem extravagant. The price paid for real estate, especially in our City a few years ago, is no just criterion, however, to judge of its present value. Property in many favored localities has risen over twenty fold in value within the past ten years in consequence of the great rapicity with which New-York has moved onward in its population, commerce and improvements. Other causes have also tended to give an increased value to the property in question. It has been made available for improvement by the expenditure of a large sum in filling in the lots. In this latter respect, it must be borne in mind that when the Corporation disposed of the property, it was entirely covered with water. It formed a part of the land under water granted by the State to the City in 1837, but subject nevertheless to the preemptive right of the adjacent owner. Had the adjacent land to this property been owned by private parties, it would no doubt have been granted by the Corporation to them in accordance to a valuation fixed by the 12th section of title 4, of the Sinking Fund ordinance, at $14 each running foot along the exterior line. Your Committee are informed that the grant of the block on the south, between Horatio and Gansevoort streets was made in accordance with said section to the owners of the land adjacent at $15 per running foot, and of the block on the north, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, at $13. It is true that a bulkhead had been erected by the Corporation along the exterior line of this property, before its sale to Mr. Varnum, at an expense of about $20,000, adding this however to the rate fixed by the section of the ordinance above referred to, the sum would be $32,000. It brought $160,000. The property was sold nine years ago, since which time many improvements have been made in that section of the City where it is located. The lots were covered with water in no place less than twelve feet, while in other parts it exceeded thirty feet in depth, or an average of about twenty-five feet. Already it is estimated that 1,700,000 loads of earth have been dumped in, at a cost of not less than $120,000. And yet with this immense quantity of earth filling before the lots could be made available, and the time required to do the work not less than five or six years, and the great expense thereof, the property, including the water front realized to the City, as before stated, one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, being an average of over fifteen hundred dollars a lot. No one acquainted with the locality in 1852, and who desired to purchase from the Corporation, would have paid, your Committee are satisfied, more than that sum for the property. In fact the Comptroller had valued it in 1851 at only $145,000. Besides a good test of its value at the time of the sale was the competing offers made for it. None offering having bid as high as the party to whom it was awarded. It has, no doubt, since then risen greatly in value, having participated in common with other real estate in the benefit resulting from the rapid increase of the population and commerce of the City, its water front has likewise become very valuable. The rise in the value of the entire property is not, however, comparatively so great as with real estate in some of the upper sections of the island, which was sold by the Corporation in 1851, 1852, and 1853. Lots were sold at the public sales of Corporation property in those years at from $250 to $500 each, which, within a period of five years therefrom had risen in value from $2,000 to $5,000 each.

The Special Committee of the Board of Aldermen, as mentioned, recommended its purchase in 1857 at about $410,000. It was then valued, in a letter addressed to the Chairman of that Committee by one of our most respectable real estate dealers, Anthony J. Bleecker, Esq., at $635,000. Taking the sum at which it could then have been purchased for, to wit: $410,000; interest thereon four and a half years, $129,150; expense of filling, $120,000; making a total of $659,150 independently of the profit which owners of real estate expect to realize beyond the regular interest on their investment. The above total is, however, more than the property is now offered at. That more market facilities four our City must be evident to every one who is familiar with its market business. The resolution under which your Committee was appointed admits the almost imperative necessity of procuring further accommodation for such purpose. Washington Market is now and has been for several years past overcrowded with business, the gathering of vehicles there is frequently so great as to materially interfere with its business, and accidents often occur from the same cause. During the early hours of the day, especially in the Summer months, the crowd of people and the multitude of carts and other vehicles which fill the streets and every available space in and about the neighborhood of the market, and West, Washington and Greenwich streets, as far as Chambers-street on the north and Liberty-street on the south, a distance of near a mile, together with the intersecting streets, is so great as to completely block up the thoroughfare, and seriously interfere with the general business of that section of the City. The diversion of a part of this market traffic would tend in a great degree to relieve those streets, as well as Broadway, from the great throng of those vehicles, while it would be a matter of still greater convenience to those of our citizens residing in the upper sections of our island, to whom the conveniences of the market justly belongs, but who are now in a great measure debarred from them. It must be recollected that the market accommodations at present afforded are no greater than were provided ten years ago, while our City has within that period increased a quarter of a million in its population. Even if it was possible to accommodate more business at Washington Market, the interest of the present and constantly-increasing population in the upper sections of the City require that more convenient facilities in this respect should be provided for them. The great distance from the upper Wards to the market, and the delays caused in going and returning to it through the crowded streets in its vicinity, enhances considerably the prices of most market produce to the residents of those sections. The new location recommended by your Committee is at least two miles further up town, and is easily and conveniently approached from all parts of the Island. It has an area of 300,000 square feet—more than twice that of West Washington Market—and a water front of about 900 feet, with wide streets and avenues surrounding it and in its immediate vicinity, which together would give it extraordinary facilities for an immense market business. The City also owns a block of land adjoining on the East, which, if further accommodations should be hereafter required, could be appropriated, therefore this block would also be much increased in value by establishing a public market adjacent to it. By laying out the ground proposed to be purchased in plots or stands similar to West Washington Market, every part of it could be made available. Allowing to each stand an area of twelve by twenty-five feet, it would produce at least eight hundred of them. These would be much larger than those of the above-named market, they being only seven feet by twelve, and renting on an average at $5 per week each. The stands thus to be laid out in the proposed new market, would no doubt readily rent for at least the average of $3 a week each. The total rental at that rate would yield a revenue of $2,400 a week, or $125,000 a year. This would be independent of the water front, which your Committee estimate at $10,000 a year, thus making together a yearly revenue of $134,8000. This large revenue would not only pay the interest on the cost of the property, but the surplus would of itself be sufficient in a few years to pay for its entire cost. Besides, the stands could be leased for a term of years, with the condition that the lessees erect, at their own expense, buildings on a uniform plan, to be approved by the Common Council. This would save to the City the expense of erecting market buildings on the land. For the reasons thus set forth your Committee cannot hesitate to recommend to the Common Council the immediate purchase of the property for the uses and purposes of a market. The time has arrived when, in their opinion, a great public necessity exists, that a new location further up town should be procured to accommodate the residents in the upper sections of our island. No other site than the one proposed, they believe, can be had which possesses so many peculiar advantages for market purposes, within the limits prescribed by the resolution under which they were appointed, while the price at which the property is offered at, they are satisfied from inquiries made by them from persons familiar with real estate in that vicinity, is no more than its just value. They accordingly submit and recommend the annexed proposition, that it be accepted, and the following resolutions in connection therewith, adopted.

CHARLES G. CORNELL,
ALEXANDE RFREAR,
FRANCIS J. A. BOOLE,
CHARLES J. CHIPP,
HENRY SMITH,
} Special Committee.

The following is Mr. Taylor's offer in relation to the matter:

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York:

I hereby offer to the Corporation of the City of New-York, for the uses and purposes of a market, all that block of land bounded northerly by Twelfth-street, easterly by West-street and Tenth-avenue, southerly by Gansevoort-street, and westerly by Thirteenth-avenue, and the North River, together with all the water-rights, privileges and immunities, (as the said premises were conveyed to Joseph B. Varnum by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, by deed bearing date Dec. 27, 1852,) for the price or sum of four hundred and forty-four thousand dollars, subject, however, to the assumption and payment by said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the amount due for principal and interest upon the bond and mortgage on said premises executed by the said Joseph B. Varnum to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, and subject to all taxes and assessments, if any, now existing on the said premises. Said premises to be conveyed by warranty deed, subject to said mortgage, taxes and assessments as aforesaid, upon the payment of the said sum of four hundred and forty-four thousand dollars in the bonds of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, bearing six per cent. interest from this date, payable quarterly, and the principal payable one-half in five years, and one-half in ten years from the delivery of this deed. JAMES B. TAYLOR.

The following are the resolutions in favor of accepting Mr. Taylor's offer:

Resolved, That the offer of James B. Taylor for the sale to the Corporation of the City of New-York of all that block of land bounded northerly by Twelfth-street, easterly by West-street and Tenth-avenue, southerly by Gansevoort-street, and westerly by Thirteenth-avenue and the North River, together with all the water rights, privileges and immunities, (as the said premises were conveyed to Joseph B. Varnum by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, by deed bearing date Dec. 27, 1852,) be accepted, for the uses and purposes of a market, and that the Comptroller be, and he hereby is required and directed, to carry out and complete such purchase of the said premises, for the Corporation, for the uses and purposes of a market, and upon the execution and delivery to him of a warranty deed of the same, properly executed by said James B. Taylor and all other parties who appear on record to be now the owners of said premises, or any part thereof by title, derived from or through said Joseph B. Varnum, and free from encumbrances, except as stated in said offer, the said Comptroller is hereby directed to pay said Taylor, in the manner hereafter provided, the sum of four hundred and forty-four thousand dollars, the corporation also assuming the payment of the principal and interest of the mortgage given and executed to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty by said Joseph B. Varnum, for a portion of the purchase money for said premises, and also all taxes and assessments, if any, upon or affecting said premises.

Resolved, That the Comptroller be, and hereby is, authorized and directed, in payment of said purchase money and on the receipt of said conveyance, to execute and deliver to said James B. Taylor the bonds of the City to the amount of such purchase money, the principal of one-half of which shall be payable in five years, and of the other half in ten years, and to bear interest from the date of the passage of this resolution at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable quarterly.

Resolved, That the faith of the said the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, shall be deemed to be, and the same hereby is irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal and interest on such bonds as shall be issued pursuant to the foregoing resolutions, as the same shall respectively become due and payable.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

CORPORATION ADVERTISING.

At a special meeting of the Board last evening, the message of the Mayor vetoing the resolution making the *World* a Corporation paper, and recommending that the whole system of advertising patronage be revised, and the advertising be given to three or four papers having the largest circulation, was taken from the table, and Alderman SMITH moved that the resolution be passed over the veto.

Mr. DAYTON opposed the motion, and would like to hear the arguments advanced by the Mayor answered on that floor.

Alderman CORNELL favored the motion, and said that the Corporation now had no morning paper in which they advertised their proceedings.

Alderman FROMENT was in favor of the general principle advocated by the Mayor, that the advertising should be given to papers having the largest circulation, but could not see the consistency of the Mayor's course with that pursued by him in relation to the defunct *Daily News*.

The motion was lost for want of a constitutional vote—ayes, 11; nays, 5.

After some little routine business, the Board adjourned to Thursday evening at 3 o'clock.

The Death of Prince Albert—Notice of the Event in New-York.

The intelligence of the death of Prince ALBERT produced a profound impression in this City, particularly among the British residents. The Cunard, and all the other English steamers in port, yesterday displayed their flags at half-mast, and all the principal ships of the Liverpool and London lines also displayed their colors at half-mast. Mr. ARCHIBALD, the British Vice-Consul, took immediate steps to convene a meeting of the British residents of New-York, with a view of initiating suitable proceedings in commemoration of the sad event. Telegraphic information from the British Provinces shows that the event will be made the occasion of suitable observances throughout the Canadas and Nova Scotia.

At William Taylor's Saloon,
No. 555 Broadway,
Boned Turkey, Cakes, Jellies, Charlotte Russe, Brandy, Fruits, Ornamental Pyramids. Also, an endless variety of fancy articles for Christmas Trees, appropriate to the times.
Confectionery, Bon Bon Boxes, Cornucopias, &c.
Massons's celebrated Paris Chocolate.

At Retail,
Musical Boxes, playing from 2 to 24 tunes.
Toy Musical Boxes, playing 1, 2, 3 or 4 tunes.
Watches, gold and silver, at all prices.
M. J. PALLARD, Importer,
No. 21 Maiden-lane, (up stairs,) New-York.

Fancy Boxes, for Holiday Presents, of the LATEST IMPORTATION and in GREAT VARIETY, at war prices, filled with fine and pure candies, at SNOW'S GREAT CONFECTIONERY, No. 623 Broadway.

Japanese, American Indian, Chinese, Manila, and East India and novel goods in every variety, new and cheap as any in the City, wholesale and retail. No. 653 Broadway. FOUNTAIN & CO.

Gent's Slippers for New-Year Presents, at reduced prices, at SLATER'S Ladies' Shoe-store, No. 858 Broadway, near 14th-st.

MARRIED.

ABBOTT—DE L'OUEST.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at the residence of the bride's parents, No. 98 East 22d-st., by Rev. Dr. Parker, Mr. CHARLES A. ABBOTT and Miss BLANCHE E. DE L'OUEST.

NICOLOVIUS—BOYD.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at the Church of the Saviour, by Rev. Dr. Farley, LUDWIG NICOLOVIUS to GEORGIANA HARROD, daughter of Robert Boyd, all of Brooklyn.

CABLE—MOREHOUSE.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, by Rev. Charles Robinson, ROBERT B. CABLE to KATE, eldest daughter of Stephen B. Morehouse, all of Brooklyn.

SEABURY—DEPUY.—In Williamsburgh, on Monday, Dec. 23, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. John E. Perine, CHARLES SEABURY to REBECCA DEPUY, all of Williamsburgh, L. I.

BEDELL—BEDELL.—In Nassau, Rensselaer County, N. Y., on Thursday, Dec. 12, by Rev. B. O. Meeker, Mr. JOSEPH P. BEDELL to Miss MARY A. BEDELL, both of the former place.

DIED.

MERRILL.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, after a short illness, FLORA SOPHIA, only daughter of Major H. W. and Louisa R. Merrill, aged 3 years and 9 months.

The friends of the family, and of her uncles, Nelson Merrill and James Green, are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, at the residence of the latter, No. 259 5th-av., on Friday, the 27th inst., at 2 o'clock, without further invitation.

TEN EYCK.—In this City, on Monday evening, Dec. 23, at the residence of his mother, JAMES E. TEN EYCK, only son of Rev. James B. Ten Eyck, aged 26 years.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his father, in Montgomery, Orange County, this day, (Christmas Day,) at 12 o'clock M. Carriages by the Hudson River Railroad leave for Newburgh at 7½ A. M.

SULLIVAN.—In this City, on Tuesday morning, Dec. 24, CLARA, wife of Charles Sullivan, and daughter of the late Samuel Waldo, in the 33d year of her age.

Friends are invited to attend the funeral, on Friday morning, at 10 o'clock, from the New-Jerusalem Church, 35th-st., between 4th and Lexington avs.

MORTON.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, of consumption, ALBINA LOUISE MORTON, daughter of the late Henry Morton.

The friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, on Friday, the 27th inst., at 1 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 170 West 34th-st.

BUXTON.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at No. 120 West 10th-st., suddenly, Miss ANN MARIA BUXTON.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, notice of which will be given in the morning papers.

TROTTER.—In this City, on Tuesday morning, Dec. 24, ALEXANDER TROTTER, aged 35 years.

The relatives and friends of the family, also the members of Columbian Lodge No. 484, F. and A. M., and Diamond Lodge No. 140, I. O. of O. F., are most respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 68 Cannon-st., on Thursday, at 1 o'clock P. M., without further invitation. His remains will be interred in the Cemetery of the Evergreens.

HOTCHKISS.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, ALVA SULLIVAN HOTCHKISS, aged 17 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Thursday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, from his late residence, No. 232 Union-st., South Brooklyn.

SALT.—The funeral of the late MARK H. SALT will take place from the residence of Hugh Barkley, Esq., No. 122 Sullivan-st., this (Wednesday) morning, Dec. 25, at 9 o'clock.

WERNEKEN.—On Friday, Dec. 20, of consumption, JOHN HENRY WERNEKEN, eldest son of Anthony and Mary Werneken, aged 26 years and 4 months.

His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, at his late residence, Skillman-st., southwest corner of Willoughby-av., at 2 o'clock this (Wednesday) afternoon. Take Myrtle-av. and Broadway cars from Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn.

CLARKSON.—In Brooklyn, on Monday, Dec. 23, after a long and painful illness, MARY D., daughter of David and Matilda Clarkson, of Brooklyn.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend her funeral, at 2 o'clock, on Thursday, the 26th inst., from her late residence, No. 63 Court-st., Brooklyn.

ESCHWEGE.—In Brooklyn, Tuesday, Dec. 24, JAMES, only child of James and Augusta Eschwege, aged 2 months and 19 days.

BROOKS.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, DANIEL BROOKS, M. D., in the 44th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, on Friday, the 27th inst., from the Presbyterian Church, (Dr. Speers',) corner of Clinton and Amity sts., at 2 o'clock P. M., without further invitation.

REILLY.—In Detroit, Mich., on Thursday evening, Dec. 19, deeply lamented by a large circle of relatives and friends, Mrs. ELIZABETH M. REILLY, wife of Robert M. Reilly, Esq., and daughter of Rev. Joseph Mason, of the above city.

DIAMOND LODGE No. 140, I. O. OF O. F.—The members of this Lodge are requested to meet at their Lodge-room, corner of Grand and Centre sts., on Thursday, Dec. 26, at 12 o'clock M., to attend the funeral of our late worthy brother, ALEXANDER TROTTER. Members of the Order are respectfully invited to attend.

R. T. WELSH, N. G.
JOSEPH ASH, Secretary.

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62, 31, 41, 25, 7, 37, 29, 71, 19, 30, 54, 8.
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Copy of an article in our possession, drawn up by Bradstreet, which he wished us to sign and publish.

Messrs. Bradstreet & Son assure us that they have not failed, and we gladly give them the benefit of such denial. We refused to sign it unless John M. Bradstreet would go before a Commissioner and subscribe to its truth, which he refused to do, on account of expense. We then offered to pay it ourselves: he still declined.

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LAW REPORTS.

Vessel Liable for Damage to Cargo by Rats.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

Before Judge Shipman.

Wm. P. Kirkland et al. vs. The Bark Fame, &c.—SHIPMAN, J.—This libel seeks to recover damages for injuries to a cargo of coffee transported in the bark *Fame* from Rio Janeiro to the port of New-York. From the evidence before the Court, it appears that the cargo was considerably damaged on the passage. The answer alleges that this damage occurred, not from any cause for which the bark or her owners are responsible, but solely from "the dangers and accidents of the seas and navigation," in which terms, the exception in the bill of lading exempts the carriers from all liability. It is clear, from the evidence, that a portion of the injury was caused by rats gnawing the packages. This fact was anticipated by the answer, and the latter alleges that due care was exercised, two cats being kept on board from the time the cargo was taken at Rio until it was discharged at New-York. The claimants insist that, having exercised due care and diligence, the injury by rats is within the exceptions of the bill of lading, and is to be deemed one of the "dangers or accidents of the seas and navigation." On the other hand, the libelants maintain, as matter of law, that damage to a cargo by being gnawed by rats is not a peril of the sea, within the meaning of that term or the terms used in the bill of lading; and that, therefore, the claimants cannot exempt themselves from liability by showing that they took certain precautions to prevent it.

This question of the liability of shipowners for damage done to a cargo by rats, has been the subject of repeated decisions by Courts, and has been often discussed by elementary writers. Opinions have not been uniform in regard to what should be the rule.

The oldest case which has been generally relied on at all, is that of Dale *vs.* Hall, (1 Wilson R., p. 281.) That was an action in the King's Bench, on a contract to carry. Mr. Justice Burnett, on the trial, admitted evidence to show that rats had gnawed a hole through the bottom of the vessel, by reason of which the damage occurred. A verdict was given for the defendant, and, on a motion for a new trial, the verdict was set aside, (Lee, chap. 1,) remarking that the ruling below was clearly wrong. In this the whole Court concurred. By the report of the case, it appears that the Judge who tried the case was in doubt as to the admissibility of the evidence. This case was decided in 1750.

In the case of Hunter *vs.* Potts, (4 Campbell, 203,) decided in 1815, Lord Ellenborough held, in a *nisi prius* trial, that a loss arising from rats eating holes in the ship's bottom was not within the perils insured against in the common form of a policy of insurance. Of course he held it not a peril of the seas.

But a very recent English Case—Laveroni *vs.* Drury (16 Eng. Law and Eq. Rep., 510,) fully sustains the claim of the libelants in this case. It was there held that a cargo of cheese having been damaged by rats, the injury could not be attributed to a peril of the seas; that it was "a kind of destruction not peculiar to the sea or navigation, or arising directly from it, but one to which such a commodity as cheese is equally liable in a warehouse on land as in a ship at sea." The Court held that the presence of cats on board, as is alleged in the present answer, was no defence.

It is true that Judge STORY states that the Continental writers on maritime law maintain a different doctrine, although he says the English law holds the ship liable. But I do not understand him as indorsing the doctrine of the foreign writers, although he does not expressly dissent from it.

In this country there are two cases which are in conflict with the English rule—Carrigues *vs.* Coxe, 1 Binney, 592; and Aymar *vs.* Astor, 6 Cowen, 266. Of the former case, Angell, in his work of the Law of Carriers, remarks: "But this has been considered and pronounced to be the only case contrary to the English law."

As to the case of Aymar *vs.* Astor, the reasoning of the Court on this point does not appear to be wholly consistent with either doctrine, and consequently is sometimes cited as supporting the English rule, and sometimes as in conflict with it. The learned counsel for the libelants, in the case now under consideration, has cited it in support of his claim; but I agree with the counsel for the claimants, that it has no such effect. On the trial in the Court below, the Judge charged the jury that damage by rats was not a peril of the sea, and therefore not within that exception in the bill of lading. To this part of the charge exception was taken, and on the the hearing on the writ of error judgment was reversed. Savage, Ch. J., said, in giving the opinion of the Court —and in this part of his opinion the whole Court concurred: "The true question to be submitted to the jury was, whether the master had used ordinary care and diligence in carrying the goods in question; whether a cat is a sufficient precaution against rats; or whether smoking the vessel is the proper or more efficacious remedy against this evil, is a proper consideration for the jury." This view of the Court must have proceeded upon the idea that damage by rats was a peril of the sea, against which the masters and owners were not obliged to secure the cargo at all hazards, and therefore came within the exceptions in the bill of lading. This, of course, would let in the proof, and if the fact that ordinary care and diligence were used was proved, it would excuse the ship. Of course, too, without this care and diligence, the extremest perils of the sea could not excuse a loss. If a ship were destroyed by a tornado, or engulphed by the maelstrom, unless ordinary diligence to prevent it were shown, the loss would not be a peril of the sea within the meaning of the law. The result to which the Court came in this case of Aymar *vs.* Astor was a logical deduction from the principle which they assumed, that the master of a vessel was "not responsible like a common carrier for all losses, except they happen by the act of God or the enemies of the country." I understand that this principle has been distinctly overruled. (Sewell *vs.* Allen, 2 Wendell, 327; Angell on Law of Carriers, § 80 and § 170, note; Greenleaf's Overruled Cases, revised ed. [1856,] p. 23.)

After a careful examination of the authorities, I am inclined to adopt the opinion of Chancellor Kent, who, after remarking that it was a "vexed question, upon which the authorities are much divided," says "The better opinion would, however, seem to be that the insurer is not liable for this sort of damage, because it arises from the negligence of the common carrier, and it may be prevented by due care, and is within the control of human prudence and capacity." (3 Kent's Com., 300, 301.) This conclusion has since been strengthened by the case of Laveroni *vs.* Drury, already cited.

But whatever may be the conclusion warranted by the authorities, I do not think the master of the *Fame* has proven due diligence on his part. The witnesses offered by the claimants, consisting of several shipmasters who carry similar cargoes from Rio, state that it is a very bad port for rats. The master of the *Fame* himself testifies that it is the worst port for rats that he has ever visited; and that he always has more or less on board. Yet he admits that he did not use the efficient precaution of fumigating his vessel. Knowing the danger, as he admits he did, I think common prudence would have led to the use of every known means of ridding the vessel of the vermin.

Let a decree be entered for the libelants, with an order of reference; and let the Commissioner, in his report, carefully distinguish the various kinds of damage to the cargo, and the cause of that damage.

For libelants, Messrs. Benedict, Burr & Benedict; for claimant, Messrs. Burrill, Davison & Burrill.

Additional Allowance upon Recovery—Provisions of the Code respecting it.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

Before Justices Clerke, Ingraham and Leonard.

Williams vs. *Heron.*—This was a motion made upon recovery by the defendant, under section 309 of the Code (as amended in 1858,) for an extra allowance. The recovery was in an action, however, in which, under section 308 of the Code, only the plaintiff could be granted extra allowance. Section 309, as amended in 1858, provides that the Court may, "in its discretion, make a further allowance to any party, not exceeding five per cent. upon the amount of the recovery or claim, or subject matter involved." As thus amended, the defendant claimed that he was entitled to such extra allowance.

The motion was denied at Special Term, and appeal was taken to this branch of the Court, where it was now held, per presiding Justice CLERKE, that by a second amendment of section 309, in 1859, it was also changed that the defendant could only obtain extra allowance in difficult and extraordinary cases, not specified in section 308.

By this last amendment, the authority of the Court, in making extra allowances, as before 1858, depended solely upon section 308.

The Court, therefore, can make such allowances in cases specified in section 308, only to the plaintiff in an action, and is, by necessary implication, deprived of any equitable discretion in allowing extra costs to any party.

The defendant is not entitled to an extra allowance. Order at Special Term affirmed.

Surrogate's Court.

Wills Admitted.—The will of George Conklin, which has been contested since the 16th of May last, was now admitted. The wills of the following parties were also admitted: Samuel Wescott, Sarah Wilson and John G. Forbes.

Decisions.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before Justice Barnard.

Buckley vs. *Buckley*; *Bonneker* vs. *Bonneker.*—Judgments of divorce granted.

Statement of Mr. Moriarty.

NEW-YORK, Monday, Dec. 23, 1861.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Under the heading of "Stabbing Affray," in your paper of to-day, you state that it occurred in a "drinking saloon," in Beekman-street, which is incorrect. The facts are simply these: About two o'clock Sunday morning, as I was coming down Fulton-street, on my way home, alone, I was met near Gold-street, by a man who spoke to me inaudibly; and thinking him to be a German, I answered, in German, that I was going home. He then struck at me, and I ran into the middle of the street, and toward William-street. When I got there I looked down, and seeing no one, I returned down again on my way, not for a moment thinking I would again be attacked. However, when coming near Gold-street again, I perceived about a dozen men and boys crossed and joined [illegible] of any hostile intention. I then, suddenly they cried out, "There comes that son of a —— again, and I was immediately surrounded by most, if not all of them. Then, and not till then, did I use a knife (which was a small nail-knife.) My clothes will fully prove that I was handled badly by them. I ask for a suspension of public judgment until my examination, when I will prove by my own assailants that I acted entirely in self-defence, and, moreover, by the Second Precinct police, that it is next to an impossibility to pass along Fulton-street, after dark, for those very men and boys. I am not of a quarrelsome disposition. The man BARWISE, who made the charge against me, was among those who attacked me. Not wishing to trespass any more on your valuable columns, I remain yours respectfully,

JOHN MORIARTY.

GENERAL MARKETS.

NEW-YORK, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1861—6 P. M.

The reported receipts of the principal kinds of Produce, since our last, have been: 32 bbls. Ashes, 17,586 bbls. Flour, 550 bbls. and 300 bags Corn Meal, 6,951 bushels Wheat, 4,500 bushels Corn, 4,256 bushels Rye, 3,803 bushels Barley, 17,308 bushels Oats, 530 bushels Malt, 3,673 packages Provisions, 856 bbls. Whisky.

ASHES—Sales 60 barrels at $6 for Pots and Pearls, ₱ 100 lbs.

COFFEE—Has been inactive to-day, but quite stiffly held. The week's receipts of Rio have been 11,600 bags; sales, 16,598 bags, including, according to Messrs. WM. SCORR & SON, 1,054 per *Fylla*, (a resale,) at 18¾c.; 500 per *Bullion*, at 17¾c.; 1,600 per *Mary Morton*, (half cargo,) at 18¾c.; and 3,800 per *Melody*, 4,330 per *Jarlen*, 1,565 per *Vapor*, 3,500 per *Jason*, and 500 per *Veteran*, on private terms. Stock of all kinds in first hands, this morning, 66,609 pkgs., including 40,665 bags Rio and Santos, 11,136 bags Maracaibo, 4,960 bags Ceara, 3,000 mats Ceylon, 900 bags and 1,000 mats Java, 1,960 bags Laguayra, 1,850 bags St. Domingo, and 925 bags Jamaica. The closing quotations are as follows: Java, 25c.@26c.; Laguayra and Maracaibo, 22c.@24c.; Rio, 17c.@19c.; and St. Domingo, in bond, 18¼c.@14c. ₱ lb., usual terms.

STOCK OF RIO.

	Bags.
Dec. 21, Baltimore	15,000
Dec. 21, Philadelphia	700
Dec 24, New-York	40,865
Grand total	56,565

COTTON—Is inactive and unsettled. The nominal, quotations for Middling range from 38¾c.@37c. ₱ lb.

DRUGS—Sales, 8,000 bags Bi-Carb. Soda, for immediate and future delivery, at 4½c.@4¾c., and several lots of Caustic Soda at 4¾c., both held subsequently at 5c., cash; also 320 tons Soda Ash at $2 81¼@$2 87½, cash, subsequently held at $3 and upward.

FLOUR AND MEAL—The market is quite dull to-day for State and Western Flour, and prices are lower and irregular. The demand is generally limited. The reported sales, since our last, have been 9,400 bbls., including superfine State at $5 25@$5 35; inferior to choice extra State at $5 50@$5 75, mainly at $5 50@$5 65; rejected do., do., at $5 15@$5 35; Superfine Western, inferior to choice, at $5 25@$5 35; extra Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois, at $5 50@$6 20; extra Indiana and Michigan, at $5 60@$6 30; inferior extra Ohio, at $5 70@$5 75; round-hoop extra Ohio, shipping brands, at $5 80@$5 90 ₱ bbl.

Superfine State	$5 25	@$5 35
Extra State	5 50	@ 5 75
Superfine Western	5 25	@ 5 35
Extra Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois	5 50	@ 6 20
Extra Indiana and Michigan	5 60	@ 6 30
Inferior extra Ohio	5 70	@ 5 75
Extra Ohio, round hoop, shipping brands	5 80	@ 5 90
Extra Ohio, trade brands	5 95	@ 6 65
Fancy Genessee	5 80	@ 5 90
Extra Genessee	5 95	@ 6 90
Inferior to Choice Extra Missouri	5 85	@ 6 90

Southern Flour is dull and heavy; sales 800 bbls., at $5 50@$6 for poor to good superfine Baltimore, &c., and $6 05@$8 25 for fancy to very choice extra brands, ₱ bbl. Canadian Flour is depressed, including superfine at $5 30@$5 35; extra at $5 60@$6 50 ₱ bbl.; sales 500 bbls. Rye Flour continues inactive, at $3 10@$4 30 for fine and superfine, ₱ bbl. Corn Meal continues in limited request, at $3@$3 10 for Jersey; $3 25@$3 30 for Brandywine, ₱ bbl.

GRAIN—Wheat is inactive, as buyers are reluctant to pay asking prices, and holders are not disposed to make any important concessions. The reported sales reach 53,000 bushels, including Canada Club, on private terms; White Western, $1 42@$1 43; Amber do. at $1 39@$1 40; Red Western, inferior to good (Winter,) at $1 35@$1 38; Amber Wisconsin and Iowa at $1 32@$1 35, the latter rate for a small lot; Milwaukee Club, poor to choice, at $1 28@$1 32; Racine Spring, poor to choice, at $1 26@$1 29; Chicago Spring, poor to choice, at $1 23@$1 28; Red State, at $1 33 ₱ bushel. Corn is depressed and declining; sales 54,000 bushels, at 63c.@64c. afloat, for poor to prime Mixed Western, 63c. for sound do. in store; 64½c.@65c. for Western Yellow, and 66c. for Southern do. ₱ bushel. Oats continue inactive, including Canadian at 40c.@41c.; Western at 40½c.@41½c., State at 41½c.@42½c., and Jersey at 39c.@41c. ₱ bushel. Rye is in less demand, at 80c.@83c. ₱ bushel; sales 7,100 bushels. Barley rules quiet at old figures.

HAY—North River bale is in fair request and is firm at 70c.@85c. ₱ 100 lbs.

HOPS—Are salable and steady, including new, at 15c.@23c. ₱ lb. Mr. TURNER reviews the week's business thus: "The prospect of an amicable settlement of our relations to Great Britain has again imparted tone to the market, and prices are firm at 20c.@23c. for good and choice grades of Eastern and Western. Prime qualities continue very scarce. Of old growths, considerable shipments have been made on owners' account to England, there being scarcely any demand for them here. Exports for the week—To London, 466 bales; to Liverpool, 339 bales; to Hamburgh, 21 bales. Total for week, 826 bales. Previously reported, 18,057 bales. Total since Jan. 1, 18,883 bales."

METALS—A limited business has been reported, to-day, at essentially unchanged prices.

NAVAL STORES—The market has been generally inactive, to-day; the alterations in prices have been unimportant. Mr. C. J. TURNER notices the week's business thus: "The market for Spirits Turpentine has been very dull, and the tendency has been in favor of buyers during the week, the demand, as usual at the close of the year, having been restricted to purchasers for passing wants only. At the close, the price is nominal at $1 37½. Stock 4,000 bbls. Common Resin has also been heavy, declining from $6 12½ (the highest price it had attained this season,) to $5, and closing it rather again, however, at $5 62½ ₱ 100 lbs., in yard. Medium and Fine Pale have been firm at $6 25@$6 50 ₱ 280 lbs., for No. 2; $6 75@$7 for low No. 1, and $8@$12 for Medium and Pale. Tar is steady and firm, at $8 50@$9 25 ₱ bbl. Stock 6,000 bbls. Exports for the week—To Liverpool, 5,028 bbls. Resin. Total, 5,028 bbls. Resin."

PROVISIONS—Pork is very quiet, at $12 25@$12 75 for Mess, and $8 25@$9 for prime, ₱ bbl. Sales, 400 bbls. Dressed Hogs, 4½c.@5c. ₱ lb. Cut Meats are selling slowly, at 4¾c.@6¾c. for Hams, 3¾c.@4¾c. for Shoulders, ₱ lb. Bacon is in lively request, at steady rates; sales 2,370 boxes, at 6¼c.@8c. ₱ lb. Lard is unaltered; sales 800 tcs. and bbls., poor to choice, at 8¼c.@9¼c., ₱ lb. Beef continues quiet, to-day; sales, since our last, 215 bbls., at $13 50@$14 for extra Mess, and $11 50@$12 for new repacked Mess ₱ bbl.; Prime Mess, $20@$20 50; India Mess, $23 ₱ tierce. Beef Hams, $14@$14 50 ₱ bbl. The Government contract for Beef has been awarded at $14 75 for Army, and $13 75@$14 25 for extra Mess, ₱ bbl. Butter is inactive at 11c.@16c. for Western, and 16c.@22c. for State, ₱ lb. Cheese is selling slowly, at 6c.@8c. ₱ lb.

SPICES—Sales, 150 bags Pepper, at 14½c.@15c. ₱ lb.

SUGARS—Sales, to-day, 370 hhds., including Cubs, at 6¾c.@8c. and Porto Rico at 8¼c.@8¾c. ₱ lb.

TEAS—Holders are asking much higher prices, in view of the probable increase in the duty, and the demand is good for desirable lots at rising rates.

TALLOW—Sales 25,000 lbs. at 9¼c.@9¾c. ₱ lb.

TOBACCO—Kentucky is not plenty and the assortment a allable is an indifferent one. The current movements are limited. Prices are well supported. Sales, since our last, 106 hhds. Kentucky at 12¾c.; 92 cases Seed Leaf at 8c.@10¾c., and 87 bales Havana at 45c.@47½c. ₱ lb.

WHISKY—Sales 400 bbls. at 19c.@19½c. ₱ gallon.

FREIGHTS—Have been quiet to-day. We quote For Liverpool—Flour, 2s. 0d.@2s. 9d. ₱ bbl.; Wheat, in bulk and bags, 9d.@9½d.; Corn, 8½d. @9½d. ₱ bushel; Beef, 6s. ₱ tc.; Pork, 4s.@5s. ₱ bbl.; Bacon and Lard, 30s.@35s.; Butter and Cheese 32s. 6d.@37s. 6d.; Tallow, 30s. ₱ ton. For Glasgow—Flour, 2s. 10½d.@3s. 2d. ₱ bbl.; Grain, 9½d.@10d. ₱ bushel; Lard, 30s.; Tallow, 27s. 6d.@30s. ₱ ton. For London—Flour, 3s. 6d.@4s. ₱ bbl.; Grain, 9d.@10d. ₱ bushel; Pork at 3s. ₱ bbl.; Beef, 7s.@7s. 6d. ₱ tc.; Cheese 25s.@40s.; Bacon and Lard 30s.; Tallow, 25s. ₱ ton. For Havre—Flour, 65c.@70c. ₱ bbl.; and Wheat, 18c. ₱ bushel.

THE HORSE MARKET.

NEW-YORK, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1861.

No sales have been reported of first-class pairs the past week, though some have been offered at $600@$800 ₱ pair. Some very good single horses, without speed, were sold at $150@$175. A small lot of shippers changed hands at $120 each. Government purchased 40 head at $90 each. Railroad and omnibus companies are not buying, and there are very few horses suitable for them in the market. First-class draught horses have sold well for the season at $125@$175 each. The stock of good single horses on hand is fair. The total sales for the week amount to 87 head, leaving on hand this evening 305 head.

Philadelphia Stock Board.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Stocks weak. Pennsylvania State Fives, 77; Reading Railroad, 16½; Long Island Railroad, 9½; Pennsylvania Railroad, 35¾; Sight Exchange on New-York par.

Movements of European Steamers.

FROM EUROPE.

St. Andrew	Glasgow	New-York	Dec.	7
Arago	Southampton	New-York	Dec.	11
Nova Scotian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec.	12
Niagara	Liverpool	Boston	Dec.	14
Hammonia	Southampton	New-York	Dec.	18
John Bell	Glasgow	New-York	Dec.	21
Asia	Liverpool	New-York	Dec.	21
Bremen	Southampton	New-York	Dec.	25
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Dec.	28
Bernadotte	Southampton	New-York	Jan.	1

FROM AMERICA.

Europa	Boston	Liverpool	Dec. 25
Persia	Portland	Liverpool	Dec. 28
City of Washington	New-York	Liverpool	Dec. 28
Arago	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 1
Ariel	New-York	Southampton	Feb. 5
Nova Scotian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan. 4
Kedar	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 7
Wigwam	Boston	Liverpool	Jan. 8
Asia	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 15
John Bell	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 21

Departure of European Mails.

Mails for Europe will close at the New-York Post-office on Saturday, at 10½ A. M.

Mails Close at the Post-office.

North Mails close at.....5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
South Mails close at.....5 A. M. and 4:30 and 10 P. M.
Western Mails (*vid* Erie Railroad) 5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
Eastern Mails close at.....5 A. M., 3 P. M. and 6:30 P. M.

Mails for California, Oregon, Washington and the Sandwich Islands close daily at the New-York Post-office at 5½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

On Sunday all Mails close at 1:30 P. M.

PERSONAL.

ALL PERSONS DESIROUS OF GETTING rid of decayed teeth and roots, positively without pain or danger, can do so under the new chemically purified chloroform, as administered daily by DR. WAIT & SON, No. 5 Bond-st. Beautiful full sets inserted from $10 to $25. Gold fillings from $1 to $3; bone and amalgam, 50 cents. Refer to Drs. Pond, Gilchrist, Worster, Webb, and Rev. Drs. Ferris and Burghard.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

AGENTS CAN MAKE $5 PER DAY—MALE or female, selling Lloyd's great steel-plate Military Map and Gazeteer of the fifteen Southern States; five feet square; worth $10, price only fifty cents. Lloyd's $100,000 steel-plate Topographical Map of Virginia, five feet square. This is the only map used by Gen. McClellan; worth $20, price 25 cents. Lloyd's official steel-plate Map of Missouri; worth $3, price 25 cents. Lloyd's $5 Railroad Map of America, 5,000,000 copies of which have already been sold; price 25 cents. Agents supplied at half the retail prices, and maps warranted. Maps sent by mail anywhere for two cents postage.

J. T. LLOYD, American Map Publisher, No. 164 Broadway, and Louisville, Ky.

$100—Wanted, a smart young man to open an office in Cincinnati, and take the exclusive wholesale agency for all of Lloyd's great Military Maps, which sell like the wind. One hundred dollars is sufficient capital. To a young man who will follow instructions, $100 a week may be made. Also, agents to go to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Canada, Detroit, Indianapolis, and Rochester, N. Y., and every other State.

$500—Wanted, an enterprising man, to go to California; and take the exclusive agency for all of Lloyd's great Military Maps. A fortune can be made on these maps in California. Over 3,000,000 copies of one of my maps have been sold in the States, already. Also, a man to go to Havana, South America, Mexico, Germany, and Italy. France and England are taken, and agents coining money.

LLOYD'S MAPS ARE IN FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN.

EVIDENCE OF THE CORRECTNESS OF LLOYD'S MAPS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 2, 1861.

J. T. LLOYD, Publisher:

SIR: Please forward immediately, by mail, directed to the secretary of State, Copies of Lloyd's Topographical Map of Virginia, Lloyd's Military Map and Gazetteer of the Southern States, Lloyd's Official Map of Missouri, and Lloyd's American Railroad Map. Send your bill to George E. Baker, Disbursing Clerk. Also send me circulars of all new maps you may issue. Respectfully, yours,

J. C. DERBY, Librarian State Department.

From the New-York Herald, Nov. 2, 1861.

We have received a fine copy of Lloyd's great Military Map of the Seat of War in Virginia. This is the best and only official map in existence, taken from actual surveys by order of the Executive. It is beautifully printed from steel plates, and colored with great perfection of art, and is the only map used in the planning of our campaigns in Virginia by our Commander-in-chief. The publisher is J. T. Lloyd, No. 164 Broadway.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 8, 1861.

J. T. LLOYD, Esq.

SIR: I am well pleased with your Map of Virginia. It is altogether the best I have seen. I inclose $1 for three copies of Lloyd's great steel-plate Military Map of the Southern States. Respectfully yours,

MILLARD FILLMORE.

$150,000 CASH TRADE.—TO DRY GOODS JOBBERS.—A salesman, with a cash trade of the above amount, located in the States of New-York, Ohio, Pennsylvania or New-Jersey, can secure a place in a house keeping a general stock. The advertiser has an experience of eleven years' traveling and constant drumming. Unexceptional references given. Address H. B. K., Box No. 172 *Times* Office.

FOR SALE—THE STOCK AND GOOD WILL OF a Boot and Shoe Store, well located, upon Broadway; stock very small, and bought for cash. Satisfactory reasons given for selling. Address D, Box No. 134 *Times* Office.

MUSICAL.

LESSONS ON THE PIANO, IN SINGING and in the French language, given by an experienced Professor from the Conservatoire de Musique, Paris. Terms: Music, $10; both, $15. Most satisfactory reference to present pupils. Address H., No. 138 East-Broadway.

STODART PIANOS.

GRAND, SQUARE, AND UPRIGHT.

A full assortment of these unrivaled instruments for sale, at the lowest prices, by the manufacturers, at their warerooms, 506 Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.

THE HORACE WATERS PIANOS AND Melodeons and Alexandre Organs, and T. Gilbert & Co.'s celebrated Æolian Pianos, are the finest instruments for parlor and churches now in use. A large assortment can be seen at the new warerooms, No. 481 Broadway, between Grand and Broome sts., which will be sold at extremely low prices. Pianos and melodeons, from sundry makers, new and second-hand, to let, and rent allowed, if purchased as per agreement. Monthly payments received for the same. Sheet music, music books and all kinds of music merchandise at war prices. A pianist in attendance will try new music.

RAVEN, BACON & CO.,
Manufacturers of Grand and Square
PIANO-FORTES.
In every variety of scales and patterns.
Warerooms, No. 135 Grand-st.,
near Broadway, New-York.

PIANOS, MELODEONS, HARMONIUMS.—First-class. For sale, to let, or sold on installments, on favorable terms. Peloubet Harmoniums, one, two or three banks of keys, $135 to $400. Cottage Pianos, fully warranted, 6¾ octave, $160 to $250.

J. M. PELTON, 841 and 843 Broadway, New-York.

UNITED PIANO-FORTE MAKERS.—CHAS. SIEH & CO., corner South-3d and 1st-sts., Brooklyn, E. D. Depôt No. 547 Broadway, N. Y. We invite the attention of the public to our stock of improved overstrung, iron frame piano-fortes, which for their power, musical qualities and durability, stand unsurpassed.

BOARDMAN, GRAY & CO. WILL SELL UNtil February 1, their stock of new and second-hand Pianos very cheap for cash. Their Automatic Melodeon is also on exhibition at their warerooms, 487 Broadway.

100 NEW PIANO-FORTES OF OUR OWN make to hire, and the rent applied to the purchase. FIRTH, POND & CO., No. 547 Broadway, New-York.

WATCHES AND JEWELRY.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
FINE GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES,
FINE GOLD JEWELRY,
STERLING SILVER WARE,
DIAMONDS, &c., &c.

C. HARTMANN, at No. 176 Bowery, opposite Delancey-st., respectfully invites the public, before purchasing elsewhere, to examine his new, select and extensive stock of fine Gold Jewelry, Watches, Diamonds, Silver Ware, &c., which will be sold at prices to suit the times. Every article will be guaranteed as represented. Watches and Jewelry repaired by expert workmen at moderate prices. Be sure to call at No. 176 Bowery, opposite Delancey-st.

HEADQUARTERS FOR JEWELRY.

All kinds of Sets, Brooches, Ear Rings, Bracelets, Neck Chains, Lockets, Rings, Pins, Charms, and everything in the jewelry line.

C. P. GIRTON, Manufacturing Jeweler,
No. 208 Broadway, Room No. 1.

MACHINERY, &c.

CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR MACHINES.—Messrs. Aspinwall & Woolsey's patent.—GEORGE B. HARTSON, No. 111 East 42d-st., continues to execute orders, and gives his personal attention to the erection of the above machines, and will also furnish plans and estimates for complete sugar refineries, with all the latest improvements.

STEAM ENGINES.—A LARGE ASSORTMENT on stock, from 5 to 100 horse-power. Also portables of various sizes, and finest quality, for sale at our works at Paterson, N. J., or at depôts and store No. 13 Dey-st. New-York. Also flax, hemp and rope machinery made to order. TODD & RAFFERTY.

TWO OR THREE LIGHT TRIP-HAMMERS wanted, with the gearing, if offered low. Also an experienced practical machinist. Address Box No. 287 Post-office, New-York.

PRINTING MATERIALS.

NEW-YORK TYPE FOUNDRY,
(ESTABLISHED, 1833,)
NO. 29 SPRUCE-STREET.

PRINTERS ARE INVITED TO CALL ON the subscriber, where they can be supplied with EVERY STYLE of PRINTING TYPES, made from UNRIVALED HARD METAL, and finished in the most accurate manner, with Presses and every article they require, at the LOWEST PRICE for cash or approved paper. ELECTROTYPING and STEREOTYPING; Second-hand Presses and materials bought and sold. Type copperfaced to order by the Newton Company. Old type taken in exchange for new at 10 cents per pound.

PETER C. CORTELYOU.

SKATES.

50,000 PAIRS SKATES AT A. & E. ELBERS, No. 15 Platt-st., manufacturers depôt. 12,000 pairs Brooklyn Patent Skates, 15 Platt-st.

AT NO. 481 PEARL-STREET—A LARGE quantity of cast-off clothing wanted, in large or small lots, to fill up orders from the West. First-rate prices will be given, and cash paid in current money. Address, or call on J. MARONEY, No. 481 Pearl-st., next block to Chatham.

DRY GOODS.

REAL LACES AND LACE GOODS.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

WILL OFFER, ON MONDAY, DEC. 23,

A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF LACE GOODS.

In consequence of the great depression in the European markets these goods have been purchased much under regular prices, and will be offered proportionately cheap, consisting of

COLLARS,
SETS, HANDKERCHIEFS,
BARBES, COIFFURES,
LACES, &c., IN POINT APPLIQUE,
POINT D'ALENCON, AND POINT A L'AIGUILLE.

CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer.

WIDE BLACK SILK VELVETS,
FULL TWENTY PER CENT. LESS
THAN REGULAR PRICES.
CHOICE SHADES,
OUR OWN IMPORTATION.
MADE EXPRESSLY FOR OUR RETAIL TRADE.
Well worthy the attention of our Customers.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.,
CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer.

CLOAKS AT REDUCED PRICES.

ARNOLD CONSTABLE & CO.

WILL OFFER,
FOR THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON,
THEIR LARGE AND ELEGANT STOCK OF CLOAKS
AT VERY LOW PRICES.

CANAL-ST., corner of Mercer.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

WILL OPEN AT RETAIL,
ON MONDAY, DEC. 23,
A LARGE LOT OF
REAL INDIA CAMELS' HAIR SCARFS,
AT DECIDED BARGAINS.

CANAL-ST., corner Mercer.

ARNOLD, CONSTABLE & CO.

ARE NOW SELING AT RETAIL
THEIR ENTIRE STOCK OF
SHAWLS,
AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

CANAL-ST., Corner of Mercer.

CLOAKS! CLOAKS!! CLOAKS!!!
SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE LADIES.

In addition to our regular stock,
we are now manufacturing
a magnificent assortment of
FRENCH AND ENGLISH BEAVER CLOTH CLOAKS,
superbly adorned with crotchet ornaments, and
specially intended for
HOLIDAY GIFTS.
ALSO,
PLUSH, FUR AND SEALSKIN CLOAKS,
now so much worn.
No lady should purchase a CLOAK
without first examining our styles and prices
CLOAKS—CLOAKS—CLOAKS.
At $5, at $6, at $7, at $8, at $10, at $12.
CLOAKS AT ALL PRICES.
ALSO
A splendid assortment of
MISSES AND CHILDREN'S CLOAKS.

W. K. PEYTON,
Excelsior Cloak House,
No. 274 Bowery, near Houston-st.

OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF CLOAKS,
INCLUDING BLACK CLOTH AND
VELVET CLOAKS in great variety, will be offered on
MONDAY, Dec. 23, and during the Holidays,
BELOW COST!!!

A large lot of FANCY CLOTH CLOAKS, at the following low prices:

100 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $2, formerly $8
200 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $3 50, formerly $8.
100 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $7, formerly $18.
100 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $8, formerly $20.
50 Fancy Cloth Cloaks at $14, formerly $25.
ALSO,
One case RICH EMBROIDERED VELVET CLOAKS and short SAQUES, of the prevailing Paris styles, received per steamer *Europa*,
SUITABLE FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
will be sold at less than the cost of importation, owing to the advanced season.

LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

PARIS KID GLOVES AT 62½ CENTS.
500 DOZEN LADIES' PARIS KID
GLOVES,
RETAILED AT 62½ CENTS PER PAIR.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.

RICH PARIS DRESS SILKS,
SUITABLE FOR PROMENADE,
DINNER, CARRIAGE and EVENING DRESSES,
VERY CHOICE STYLES—CHEAP!
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

GENTLEMEN'S TIES, SCARFS, HDKFS.,
GLOVES, HOSIERY, SILK AND
WOOL DRAWERS, &c., &c.
LARGE ASSORTMENT—CHEAP!
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

EMBROIDERIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
IN SETS, COLLARS, HANDKERCHIEFS,
CAPS, WAISTS, &c., &c.
Also, low-priced and
RICH LACES IN GREAT VARIETY.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

TARLETONS FOR EVENING DRESSES,
SPANGLED, EMBROIDERED AND
PLAIN, at one-third
THE COST OF IMPORTATION.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.

FASHIONABLE DRESS GOODS.
AN IMMENSE ASSORTMENT AT
low prices.
FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
LORD & TAYLOR,
Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY.
Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST.
Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

FASHIONABLE CLOAKS.
At reduced prices.
FRENCH BEAVER CLOAKS,
HEAVY ESQUIMAUX BEAVER CLOAKS,
MOSCOW BEAVER CLOAKS AND WRAPPERS
ELEGANT LYONS VELVET CLOAKS,
PLUSH AND LIONSKIN CLOAKS, in a great variety.
All new styles, at retail, at reduced prices.

E. S. MILLS & CO.,
No. 413 Broadway, near Canal-st.

310 CANAL-STREET. 310
FINE MINK FURS, COLLARS AND
MUFFS, CHOICE ROYAL ERMINE.
A fine selection of dark-colored Mink at reasonable prices,
For Holiday Presents.
J. J. BENSON,
Canal-st., exactly opposite Mercer.

NO. 759 BROADWAY.
PRESENTS FOR ALL SEASONS.
And the most agreeable favors for ladies are
TUCKER'S
BRIDAL SETS AND VEILS,
Commencing at $5.
Flowers, for decorative purposes, 12 cents per bunch.

LADIES' ENGLISH SKATING JACKETS.
ALSO,
A LARGE WHOLESALE STOCK
OF LAD

FINANCIAL.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

OFFICE
OF THE
GREAT WESTERN
MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY,
Great Western Buildings, Nos. 31 and 33 Pine-st.,
NEW-YORK.

THE USUAL SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST DIVIDEND of 3½ per cent. on the $1,000,000 Cash Capital Stock of this Company, will be paid at this office, on and after Jan. 2, 1862. Transfer books will be closed from on and after the 20th inst.

DOUGLAS ROBINSON, Secretary.

UNION DIME SAVINGS BANK,

No. 429 CANAL, CORNER OF VARICK-ST.

Open daily from 10 A. M. to 2, and from 5 to 7 P. M. Special deposits of deposits of $500 and under, and 5 per cent. on larger amounts.

THIS BANK HAS OPENED 7,142 ACCOUNTS, AND RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT $637,372 46 IN THE LAST 30 MONTHS.

E. V. HAUGHWOUT, President.
GARDNER S. CHAPIN, Secretary.

THIRD-AVENUE SAVINGS BANK,

Corner 3d-av. and 26th-st.
CHARTERED 1854.

Six per Cent. interest allowed on all sums from $1 to $1,000.

DEPOSITS WILL DRAW INTEREST FROM JAN. 1.

Bank open daily from 10 to 3, also on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

SPENCER K. GREEN, President.
STEPHEN S. CHILDS, Secretary.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,

NO. 59 WALL-ST.,
ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS FOR USE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD

CONTRACTORS' BILLS

For Army and Navy supplies collected cheaply and expeditiously, or purchased on favorable terms, by
LIVERMORE, CLEVELAND & MASON,
Nos. 41 and 43 Wall-st., New-York

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY—NEW-YORK, Dec. 5, 1861.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, held at their Office in New-York this day, it was

Resolved, That an assessment of FIVE DOLLARS per share upon the Scrip Shares of the Capital Stock of the Company, be and the same is hereby called payable on the twentieth day of January, 1862; and that the same be payable on the Stock registered in the City of New-York at the Office of the Company in that City; and on the Stock registered in London, at the Office of Messrs. Rondet Barnet & Co., London; and that parties desiring to pay their assessment in London, may pay the same at a rate of exchange sufficient to produce five dollars per share to the Company in the City of New-York.

Resolved, That the transfer books be closed on the afternoon of the 15th January next, and reopened on the 20th day of the same month; and that no transfer be permitted on or after that day of shares upon which the foregoing assessment shall not have been paid.

THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

The eighty-dollar certificates to be returned on payment of the above.

NOTICE.—THE BANK OF MONTREAL HAVING established an agency at Chicago, is prepared to do a general Banking business; and, in connection therewith, will attend to the collection of commercial paper in all accessible points throughout the West. Collections in interior points will be at the risk of owners, care being used in selecting the most reliable medium.

CHICAGO, Oct. 16, 1861. E. W. WILLARD, Agent.

Referring to the above, we are prepared to draw, purchase and collect upon Chicago on favorable terms.

We also purchase and collect upon the Canadas, and issue drafts and credits upon the various branches of the Bank of Montreal and the Union Bank of London.

RICHARD BELL and A. OGILVIE,
No. 32 Pine-st.,
Agents for the Bank of Montreal, New-York.

CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS AND CINCINNATI RAILROAD COMPANY, CLEVELAND, Dec. 16, 1861.—THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKholders of this Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Cleveland, Ohio, on WEDNESDAY, January 8, 1862, for the election of eleven Directors, and for the transaction of important business relating to the purchase of that portion of the Springfield, Mount Vernon and Pittsburgh Railroad lying between Delaware, Ohio, and Springfield, Ohio, and other business. The transfer books will be closed on the 27th inst., and remain closed until the 9th January next. By order of the Board of Directors.

GEORGE H. RUSSELL, Secretary.

FIFTY-FIFTH DIVIDEND—BROOKLYN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held at their office, No. 16 Merchants' Exchange, New-York, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1861, it was

Resolved, That the usual Dividend of Ten (10) per cent. be paid upon the capital stock of the Company, on and after the 2d day of January next, out of the profits for the last six months, leaving a balance of said earnings of 3¼ per cent., which is added to the surplus fund.

By order, WM. F. LEGGETT, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE HAMILTON FIRE INSURANCE CO., No. 11 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 18, 1861.—THE STOCKHOLDERS ARE HEREBY notified that a Semi-Annual Dividend of Four (4) Per Cent. has been declared, and will be payable on and after the first Monday in January next.

An election of Directors for the ensuing year will also be held on the same day. Polls open from 12 M. to 2 P. M.

This Company continues to insure, as usual, on the most reasonable terms.

J. C. WINANS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD CO., NEW-YORK, Oct. 29, 1861.—HOLDERS OF THE STOCK OF THIS Company, as registered upon the books of the company at the close of business on the 15th day of January, 1862, will be entitled to Canceled Bonds Scrip for five dollars upon each share of stock held by them deliverable on or after the 1st day of February next; and parties holding certificates are hereby notified to have the same registered in their own names on or before the said 15th day of January.

THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

WESTERN VERMONT RAILROAD.—PURsuant to the order of the Court of Chancery of the State of Vermont, a Dividend of Three and One-Half (3½) per cent. on the principal of the Mortgage Bonds upon said Railroad, will be said at the Mechanics' Bank, in the City of New-York, on and after the 1st day of January, 1862, to the order of such persons as shall have proved their bonds.

SHEPERD KNAPP, } Trustees.
GEORGE BRIGGS, }

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION—NO. 96 WARREN-ST.—Interest allowed at the rate of 6 per cent. on sums from $1 to $500, and 5 per cent. on sums over that amount. Open daily, from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M. also on Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, from 4 to 7 P. M.

JOHN V. CASTREE, President.
WILLIAM M. PULLIS, } Vice-Presidents.
SYLVANUS S. WARD, }
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

OFFICE CHEMUNG RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 237 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1861.—WM. S. BOUN, LATE TREASURER OF this Company, having resigned, the Board of Directors have this day appointed J. W. BAKER, Esq., Treasurer *pro tem*. The dividends will be paid by him at the office of the Park Fire Insurance Company, and where the business of the Company will be conducted until further notice. JOHN T. RATHBUN, President.

MARINERS' SAVINGS BANK, NO. 1 Old-sy., opposite the Cooper Institute. Deposits made on or before the 1st of January will bear interest from that date.

BANK OPEN DAILY from 9 to 2 P. M. and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS from 5 to 8 o'clock. THOS. B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

BANK OF NEW-YORK.—THE BOARD OF Directors of the Bank of New-York have this day declared a Dividend of Three per Cent. on the capital stock of the Bank, for the current six months, payable to the stockholders on and after the 2d day of January next. The books of transfer will be closed from this date to the 8th day of January. W. B. MEEKER, Cashier.
Dec. 17, 1861.

BROADWAY BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1861.—TWENTY-FOURTH DIVIDEND.—A SEMIannual dividend of (5) Five per Cent., on the Capital Stock of this Bank, from the earnings of the current six months, will be paid on and after the 2d day of January, 1862. The transfer books will remain closed until that date. By order. J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

ATLANTIC SAVINGS BANK, CHATHAM-SQUARE.—Receives deposits from 25 cents to $5,000. Six per cent. interest allowed on sums of $500 and under. This Bank has received during the past year $46,570 67 more than it has paid out.

M. D. VAN PELT, President.
JOSEPH P. COOPER, Secretary.

MANUFACTURERS' AND MERCHANTS' BANK, No. 861 and 863 Broadway, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1861.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS Bank have declared a dividend of three (3) per cent., payable on and after the 2d day of January next, until which date the transfer books will be closed.

A. MASTERTON, Cashier.

CONTINENTAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1861.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONTINENTAL BANK have this day declared a dividend of Three Per Cent., payable on and after MONDAY, Jan. 6, 1862. The transfer books will be closed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6, inclusive. E. W. TALMAN, Assistant Cashier.

NOTICE.—HOLDERS OF MILWAUKEE CITY Bonds, issued to the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Company, may exchange the same for Second Preferred Stock of the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Railway Company, by applying to W. SCHALL & CO., Nos. 56 and 60 Exchange-place.

COLLECTIONS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.—Claims on any of the Departments, Quartermasters' accounts, and Notes payable in Washington, D. C., collected with promptness and on reasonable terms by RIGGS & CO., No. 56 Wall-st.

APPROVED BILLS FOR SUPPLIES FURnished the War and Navy Departments cashed by JOHN B. MURRAY,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

THE COUPONS OF THE JACKSON County (Ohio) Bonds, due Jan. 1, 1862, will be paid at the Ocean Bank after that date
CHAS. PALMER, Assistant Cashier.

FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ADJUSTED.

Claims upon the War and Navy Departments; the Treasury; Pension, Land and Census Bureaux; and the accounts of Army, Navy and Mail Contractors adjusted in person by our resident agent in Washington,
Hon. HORATIO KING,
late Postmaster-General of the United States.
JOHN B. MURRAY, Army and Navy Banker,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.
Claims are made up and forwarded to Washington daily.

OFFICE OF THE PANAMA RAILROAD COMPANY, TONTINE BUILDINGS, No. 88 WALL-ST. NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1861.—NINETEENTH DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF Directors of this Company have this day declared a Dividend of Six per Cent. out of the earnings of the Road, for the six months ending 31st inst., payable to stockholders or their legal representatives on and after the 2d of January next. The transfer books will be closed from this date until the morning of Monday, the 6th of January

HENRY SMITH, Treasurer.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.—MANHATTAN SAVINGS INSTITUTION.—Interest will be paid on all deposits in this institution, (by the rules entitled thereto,) at the rate of six per cent. per annum on all sums of $500 and under, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on all sums over that amount, payable on and after Jan. 20, 1862. Interest will be credited under date of Jan. 1, and if not withdrawn will receive interest the same as a deposit.

E. J. BROWN, President.
R. A. ALVORD, Secretary.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 30, 1861.—AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS OF this institution, for the ensuing year, and for three Inspectors for the next ensuing election, will be held at the Banking house, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8, 1862. Polls will be open from 2 to 3 o'clock P. M.

GEO. W. YOUK, Cashier.

METROPOLITAN BANK, NO. 108 BROADWAY.—NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1861.—DIVIDEND.—The Directors of the Metropolitan Bank have this day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of 3 (three) Per Cent., payable on the first Monday of January next (6th proximo.)

The Transfer Books will remain closed until the 7th January prox.

GEO. I SENEY, Cashier.

ROSEHILL SAVINGS BANK, CORNER of 14th-st. and 8th-av., open daily from 1 to 5 P. M. Wednesdays and Saturdays ur til 7 P. M. Six per cent. interest on all sums of $500 and under. Interest allowed from the 1st of January. THOS. CHRISTY, President.
RICH. H. BULL, Secretary.

INCOME BONDS BUFFALO STATE LINE RAILROAD COMPANY cashed by H. T. MORGAN & CO., William-st., at 98 cents.

PROPOSALS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, Dec. 6, 1861.—SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office until 1 o'clock P. M. on MONDAY, the 6th day of January, 1862, for supplying the Light-house Establishment with seventy thousand gallons of the best quality, pure, Winter-strained Sperm Oil, to be divided into three lots, and to be delivered at the times undermentioned, alongside the Government supply-vessels, or at the warehouse or other place of deposit, to be designated by the inspecting Officer or other authorized agent of the Light-house Board, in strong, tight, well-made casks, suitable for shipping, in good order, of an average capacity, each of from eighty to one hundred gallons.

Either lot or all of them may be delivered at New-York, New-London, Sag Harbor, Boston, New-Bedford, Edgartown, or Nantucket, at the option of the bidders. The place of delivery must be distinctly stated in the bids, and will be embraced in the contracts.

The three lots will be delivered as follows, viz:

Lot No. 1, (23,000) twenty-three thousand gallons on the 1st day of April, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

Lot No. 2, (32,000) thirty-two thousand gallons on the 1st day of June, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

Lot No. 3, (15,000) fifteen thousand gallons on the 1st day of October, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

No part of the oil proposed for and to be embraced in the contracts under this advertisement will be accepted, received, or paid for, until it shall have been proved to the entire satisfaction of the person or persons charged with its examination, test and inspection, to be the best quality pure Winter-strained or bagged sperm oil, free from mixture with other or inferior oils and adulterations, and that it will remain in a sufficiently fluid state for free burning in lamps at a temperature of 32° or lower of Fahrenheit's standard thermometer.

The usual means for determining the character and quality of the oil will be employed, viz: for specific gravity, by burning to determine the length of time the oil will burn in untrimmed capillary or jacket lamps, the amount of residuum in each lamp after it burns out, and, if necessary, any proper tests to arrive at correct conclusions that may be deemed necessary.

The casks must be gauged, under the direction and personal supervision of the inspecting officer, by a custom-house or other legally authorized and sworn gauger, according to the United States standard, and must be marked and accepted before they are removed from the cellar or warehouse of the contractor.

Proposals will be received and considered for each lot separately, or for all of them, at the option of the bidder; but no bid will be considered for a less quantity than that specified as one lot, to be delivered at one time and place. Each bid must state explicitly the rate per gallon in writing, the number of lot or lots bid for, and the time and place of delivery, conforming to this advertisement.

Bids submitted by different members of the same firm or copartnership will not be considered.

The Light-house Board, under the authority of the Department, reserves the right to reject any bid, although it may be the lowest, for other considerations than the price.

No bid will be considered for any other kind or description of oil than that specifically called for in this advertisement.

A bond, with security to the satisfaction of the Department, in a penalty equal to one-fifth of the amount of each contract made under these proposals, will be required of each contractor, conditioned for the faithful performance of the contract, to be executed within ten days after the acceptance of the bid.

Every offer must be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, and known to the Department as such, or certified by a United States District Judge, Attorney, Navy Agent, or Collector of the Customs, to the effect that, if the bid or bids be accepted, the bidder or bidders will duly execute a contract in good faith, according to the provisions and terms of this advertisement, within ten days after acceptance; and that in case the said party or parties offering bail fail to enter into the contract as aforesaid, he or they guarantee to make good the difference between the offer of the said party or parties and the next lowest bidder. All bids must be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for oil for light-houses," and then placed in another envelope, and directed, prepaid, to the Secretary of the Light-house Board, Washington City.

All bids will be opened, publicly, at the hour and on the day specified.

Payments will be made for the several lots of oil within thirty days after they shall have been received by the United States.

By order of the Light-house Board.
THORNTON A. JENKINS, Secretary.

FORM OF OFFER.

I, (or we,) ——, of ——, State of ——, hereby offer and agree to furnish and deliver at ——, agreeably to the provisions, and in conformity to the terms, of the advertisement of the ——, from the office of the Lighthouse Board. Should —— offer or bid be accepted, —— request to be informed at ——, and that the contract may be forwarded to ——, for signature and certificate. (Signature.)

(Place.)
(Date.)

FORM OF GUARANTEE.

We, the undersigned, residents of ——, in the State of ——, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty that in case the foregoing ——, of ——, be accepted, ——, will, within ten days after the acceptance of said ——, execute a contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties, to deliver the —— of oil proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement hereto appended, under which it was made. And in case the said —— shall fail to enter into a contract as afore-aid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said —— and the next lowest bidder.

Witness: } Sureties.

(Place.)
(Date.)

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above named guarantors are good and sufficient. (Signature.)

(Place.)
(Date.)

LEGAL NOTICES.

PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF ROBERT H. COLES, Surrogate of the County of Westchester: Notice is hereby given, according to law, to all persons having claims against the estate of EDWARD CORNING, late of the town of Rye, in said County, deceased, to present the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the undersigned, Administrators of all and singular the goods, chatels, and credits of the said deceased, at the office of JOHN E. PARSONS, No. 64 Wall-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the 22d day of March, A. D. 1862.—Dated Sept. 16, A. D. 1861.

JASPER E. CORNING, } Administrat's.
s18-1aw6mW JOHN E. PARSONS, }

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF ROSWELL C. BRAINARD, Esq., Surrogate of the County of Kings, notice is hereby given, according to law, to all persons having claims against ALBEMARL H. WASHBURN, late of the City of Brooklyn, deceased, that they are required to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, the administrator, at his place of business, No. 36 Barclay-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the 8th day of February next. Dated Aug. 1, 1861. HENRY A. WASHBURN, au7-1aw6mW* Administrator.

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE Surrogate of the County of New-York, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against William Clark, late of the City of New-York, deceased, to present the same with vouchers thereof to the subscriber, at the residence of J. Whitehead, No. 99 East 38th-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the twenty-fifth day of February next. Dated, New-York, the 16th day of August, 1861. JOSEPH WHITEHEAD, Administrator.
HARRIET L. CLARK, Administratrix.
au21-1aw6mW*

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE Surrogate of the County of New-York, Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against GEORGE W. VANSTAVOREN, late of the City of New-York, deceased, to present the same with vouchers thereof to the subscriber, at her residence, No. 58 West 35th-st., in the City of New-York, or, on or before the Fifteenth day of June next. Dated, New-York, the 12th day of December, 1861. Dec 18-1aw6mW* EMMA VANSTAVOREN, Executrix.

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE Surrogate of the County of New-York, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against CARLYSLE D. WILKES, late of the City of New-York, deceased, to present the same with vouchers thereof to the subscriber, at the office of STEPHEN H. THAYER, Esq., No. 159 Nassau-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the 4th day of January next.—Dated New-York, July 2, 1861. 5y3-1aw6mW* ELIZA ANN WILKES, Administratrix.

CASH PAID FOR OLD NEWSPAPERS, pamphlets and blank books of every description. STOCKWELL & ERNERSON, No. 25 Ann-st., Basement.

MEDICAL.

AFFLICTED RESTORED! IGNORANCE EXPOSED! FALLACIES UNMASKED!

HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH SEXES, married or single, in health or disease. DR. LARMONT'S Paris, London and New-York Medical Adviser and Marriage Guide (60th edition, 450 pages, 100 Anatomical Illustrations,) upon Mental and Nervous Debility, Loss of Memory, Incapacity, Urinary Deposits, Involuntary Loss of Semen, nights, with the urine, or at stool; Impotency, Affections of the Bladder and Kidneys, Stricture, Gleet, Gonorrhœa, Syphilis, primary and constitutional, &c.

Among its contents is the anatomy of the sexual organs of the male and female—all their diseases and weaknesses; latest discoveries in reproduction; European hospital practice; quacks, advertisers, their recipes and specifics; the author's unequalled Paris and London treatment, &c.

All who would avoid unsuccessful and barbarous treatment with Mercury, Copaiba, Injections, Cauterizations, Quack Specifics, Antidotes, Instruments, &c., should purchase this valuable work, for $1, of RICHARDSON, No. 1 Vesey-st.; ROSS & TOUSEY, No. 121 Nassau-st.; H. DEXTER & CO., No. 113 Nassau-st., New-York; and DR. WITT, No 13 Frankfort-st.; or consult the Doctor, at No. 647 Broadway, (up stairs,) New-York, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

"We concur with other papers in recommending Dr. LARMONT and his work."—*Courier des Etat Unis, German Die Reform, Le public, Illustrirte Zeitung, National Democrat, Atlas, Medical Review, &c.*

SURGEONS AND MEDICAL MEMBERS, PHYSICIANS, &c.

By C. D. Hasselbalch, M. D., Ex-Professor of Special Pathology and Therapeutics Medical College, Newfoundland. Price $1. GODFREY, Bookseller, No. 453 Broadway, or of the author, at No. 668 Broadway.

TRIESMAR.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL LETters patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. TRIESMAR, No. 1 is the effectual remedy for RELAXATION, SPERMATORRHŒA and EXHAUSTION OF THE SYSTEM. TRIESMAR No. 2 completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders for which Copaiva and Cubebs have generally been thought an antidote, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. TRIESEMAR No. 3 is the great and sure remedy of the civilized world for all impurities of the system, as well as secondary symptoms; obviating the destructive use of Mercury, as well as other deleterious ingredients, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. They are in the form of a lozenge, and may lie on the toilet table without their use being suspected. Sold in tin cases at $3 each, or four $3 cases in one for $10, and in $27 cases, thus saving $9, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail by Dr. H. A. BARROW, No. 194 Bleecker-st., (four doors from Sheridan-st.,) New-York, immediately on receipt of remittance, forwarded to any part of the world. Attendance and consultation from 11 to 2, and from 4 till 6 in the evening, and on Sunday till 11. Triesmar can also be obtained, by authority of Dr. Barrow, from

WELLS & CO.,
No. 115 Franklin-st., New-York,
And J. WORTHINGTON,
No. 206 Fulton-st., Brooklyn.

"NEW MEDICAL BOOK.—DR. BOSTWICK'S Work on Seminal Diseases, Hints Before and After Marriage, Nervous Debility, Impotency and Kindred Affections, &c., &c., is before us, and we do not hesitate to say it is without exception the most truthful and useful work of the kind ever published, and it will be hailed by the profession as well as the public as a great benefactor to mankind. Quackery is here exposed and the truth told. It should be in every family, and in the hands of every young man and woman in the land."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Mailed by Richardson, No. 1 Vesey-st.; Godfrey's, No. 831 Broadway; and by Dr. B. at his office, No. 35 East 12th-st., six doors west of Broadway, where Dr. B. will continue the practice of medicine and surgery. Price $1. All interviews and communications strictly confidential.

SURE CURE.—DR. POWERS, SUCCESSFULLY consulted with Dr. WARD, No. 12 Laight-st. He gives advice free, and guarantees an immediate cure or no pay. Glorious triumph of medicine. Dr. POWERS' sure specific remedies for syphilitic, mercurial and all other delicate diseases; for certainty unapproached, and for the entire eradication of disease, nothing besides can positively be relied upon; try them and be convinced. Dr. POWERS' Essence of Life restores the vigor of youth in four weeks. This marvelous agent restores manhood to the most shattered constitutions. Office No. 12 Laight-st. Dr. POWERS' French Preventive, the greatest invention of the age. Those who have used them are never without them. Price, $3 per dozen; mailed free on receipt of the price. Address Dr. POWERS, No. 12 Laight-st.

DR. COBBETT, MEMBER OF THE N. Y. University, (Medical College,) and Royal College of Surgeons, London, has removed from No. 19 Duane-st., to his present very convenient suite of offices at No. 20 Centre-st., Sing Sing, (Sundays excepted,) where, with a private entrance at No. 6 City Hall-place, where he can be consulted with the most honorable confidence on all diseases affecting the urinary organs; thirty years in his present specialty, (three of which have been at the Hospitals of this City,) enable him to guarantee a cure in every case undertaken, or make no charge. Strictures of the urethra, impotency, nocturnal weaknesses, &c., treated on the most scientific principles. N. B.—As a proof of Dr. C.'s qualifications, he would call special attention to his Diplomas, which can be seen in his office.

DR. COOPER, NO. 14 DUANE-ST., MAY BE confidently consulted on all diseases of a private nature. A practice of 30 years, devoted to the treatment and cure of Syphilitic, Mercurial, and diseases of a delicate nature, enables Dr. C. to make speedy and permanent cures, no matter of how long standing the case may be. Strictures of the urethra and seminal weakness, brought on by a secret habit, effectually cured. The victims of misplaced confidence, who have been misled by quack advertisements, can call on Dr. C. with the certainty of being radically cured. N. B.—Dr. C. is a qualified physician and surgeon, and a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New-York. Office hours from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M.

IMPORTANT TO THE MARRIED AND THOSE ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.—Dr. A. M. MAURICEAU, Professor of Diseases of Women, has just published the 168th edition of his valuable book, entitled "THE MARRIED WOMAN'S PRIVATE MEDICAL COMPANION," strictly intended for those whose health or circumstances forbid a too rapid increase of family. Price $1. Sold at his office, No. 129 Liberty-st., New-York; or can be sent by mail free of postage, to any part of the United States and Canada, by inclosing $1, and addressing Box No. 1,224 New-York City. For sale by H. RICHARDSON, at No. 1 Vesey-st., (Astor House,) and No. 18 Ann-st.

A PHYSIOLOGICAL VIEW OF MARRIAGE containing nearly 300 pages and 150 fine plates and engravings of the anatomy of the sexual organs in a state of health and disease; with a treatise on self-abuse, its deplorable consequences upon the mind and body, with the author's plan of treatment—the only rational and successful mode of cure, as shown by the report of cases treated. A trutaful adviser to the married and those contemplating marriage, who entertain doubts of their physical condition. Sent free of postage to any address, on receipt of 25 cents in specie or postage-stamps, by addressing Dr. LA CROIX, Albany, N. Y.

EDWARD H. DIXON, M. D., EDITOR OF the Scalpel, and Operating and Consulting Surgeon, No. 42 5th-av. Office consultations on the more obscure diseases of the pelvic viscera. Rupture, piles, varicocele, and fistula, radically cured without the knife or ligature. Office hours from 8 to 9, 1 to 3, and 7 to 9 evenings. Consultation fee, $5.

A PERFECT CURE IS GUARANTEED.—A radical cure is always effected by Dr. WARD, who cures, besides, in half the usual time and at half the charge of this office for the protection and effectual treatment of those suffering under certain diseases, is at No. 12 Laight-st., where he continually attends, and will be found a friend and qualified physician to all applying.

HO, YOUNG MAN!—YOU CAN NEVER BE cured by medicine. What you need is information. Knowledge is power. Read a tract I will send you for a dime, (no stamps,) and learn how you may avoid ruin without a doctor. LA ROY SUNDERLAND, Boston, Mass.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY LADY.—DR. WARD'S Great Benefactor. The great periodical remedy, infallible for the immediate removal of monthly obstructions. Office No. 12 Laight-st., near Canal, where Dr. WARD can be consulted confidentially, day or evening.

PRIVATE CONSULTATION.—DR. HUNTER has, for thirty years, confined his attention to diseases of a certain class, in which he has treated no less than fifty thousand cases, without an instance of failure. His great remedy, HUNTER'S RED DROP, cures certain diseases when regular treatment and all other remedies fail; cures without dieting or restriction in the habits of the patient; cures without the disgusting and sickening effects of all other remedies; cures in new cases in less than six hours; cures without the dreadful consequent effects of mercury, but possesses the peculiarly valuable property of annihilating the rank and poi-onous taint that the blood is sure to absorb, unless his remedy is used. This is what he claims for it, and what no other will accomplish. Its value in this respect has become so well known, that scientific men in every department of medical knowledge begin to appreciate it, for hardly a week passes that he is not consulted by druggists, chemists and physicians, in regard to some pitiful patient, who has exhausted the whole field of the faculty, and still the disease will appear. Its popularity is so great, that there is not a quack doctor in the City that has not attacked it; and when they find their lies are not so easily swallowed, they then pretend that they can make it. It is $1 a vial, and cannot be obtained genuine anywhere but at the old office, No. 3 Division-st. Book for 15 three cent stamps, 300 pages, 100 colored illustrations. The best work out.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

MAYOR'S OFFICE—NEW-YORK, DEC. 20, 1861.—$500 REWARD.—Whereas BERNARD LEVY, who was doing business as a broker at No. 148 Canal-st., in the City of New-York, was found lying dead on the floor of his office, at the above named place, with his throat cut, on the morning of the 14th instant, and whereas it is believed that he was murdered.

Now, therefore, I, Fernando Wood, Mayor of the City of New-York, do, by virtue of authority vested in me, offer a reward of Five Hundred Dollars for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who committed the murder of said Levy. Said reward to be paid on the certificate of the District-Attorney, or the Judge before whom the conviction was had, that the claimants are entitled to said reward; but all claims not presented to the Mayor within twenty days after such conviction, will be disregarded. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

OFFICE OF RECEIVER OF TAXES, Dec. 19, 1861.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL parties in arrears for taxes of the current year, that the same must be paid before the 1st day of January next. All taxes remaining unpaid on that day will be subject to a penalty at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from the 30th of September last. JAMES KELLY, Receiver.

WINES AND LIQUORS.

FINE OLD WINES AND BRANDIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—WM. HUGHES & SON are now selling the best old Bourbon, Monongahela Scotch, Irish and Rye Whiskies at the lowest market prices. A variety of fine brandies and gins constantly on hand. Also an assortment of syrups and cordials for bar and table use. We ask particular attention to our fine old cider brandy, port, sherry, Madeira, claret and other wines in variety. WM. HUGHES & SON, Nos. 319 and 321 7th-av., between 30th and 31st sts., N. Y.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR MANagers of the New York Institution for the Blind will be held at the office of the Republic Fire Insurance Company, No. 16 Wall-st., on THURSDAY, 26th December, inst. Polls open from 12 at noon to 1 P. M. By order.
ROBERT S. HONE, Recording Secretary.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—UNDER THE MANagement of Messrs. G. L. FOX & J. W. LINGARD. Treasurer..... Mr. G. C. Howard.

GRAND GALA WEEK.
POSITIVELY THE LAST SIX NIGHTS OF
WILLIAM HANLON
At the Academy of Music,
in his
Unrivaled and Marvelous Feat,
ZAMPILLAERostation,
Assisted by his two brothers, Geo. and Alfred Hanlon.
CHRISTMAS DAY.
GRAND GALA MATINEE.
On this occasion, in addition to the appearance of
WILLIAM HANLON,
THE G. L. FOX TROUPE OF PANTOMIMISTS
will appear for the first time in
Two richly laughable and Comic Pantomimes,
RAOUL, OR THE MAGIC STAR,
AND
THE SCHOOLMASTER.
Conductor..... CHARLES KOPPITZ.
Admission to the Morning Performance, 50 cents.
NO RESERVED SEATS.
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CHRISTMAS DAY.
GRAND GALA EVENING PERFORMANCE.
WILLIAM HANLON,
In his wonderful feat,
ZAMPILLAERostation.
THE G. L. FOX TROUPE OF PANTOMIMISTS
IN
TWO LAUGHABLE AND COMIC PANTOMIMES.
RAOUL; OR, THE MAGIC STAR.
AND
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NIBLO'S GARDEN—HERMANN.
TO-DAY, CHRISTMAS, (WEDNESDAY,) Dec. 25,
TWO PERFORMANCES.

MATINEE,	EVENING,
MATINEE, and	EVENING,
HERRMANN,	HERRMANN,
HERRMANN,	HERRMANN,
THE GREAT PRESTIDIGITATEUR,	
THE GREAT PRESTIDIGITATEUR,	
FIFTY CENTS,	FIFTY CENTS,
FIFTY CENTS,	FIFTY CENTS,
TO ALL PARTS OF THE HOUSE.	
TO ALL PARTS OF THE HOUSE.	

Reserved arm-chairs will be 25 cents extra. Private boxes from $3 to $8.
TWO CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES.
TWO CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES.
GRAND MATINEE AT TWO.
GRAND MATINEE AT TWO.
EVENING PERFORMANCE AT EIGHT.
EVENING PERFORMANCE AT EIGHT.
During the intervals of Herrmann's programme,
GRAND CONCERT
BY THE ORCHESTRA OF THE OPERA.
On Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26 and 27, fourth and fifth nights.
On SATURDAY, Dec. 28,
TWO PERFORMANCES, FOR THE
BENEFIT OF THE FRENCH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.
The first in the afternoon, at 1, the second in the evening, at 8 o'clock.

NIBLO'S SALOON.
GRAND GALA WEEK,
MONDAY, Dec. 23, and
FOR THE SEASON,
First appearance in New-York of the World-Renowned
PEAK FAMILY,
VOCALISTS, HARPISTS,
AND
LANCASHIRE BELL-RINGERS.
CARD.—This popular place of amusement for the past eight months has been undergoing repairs, at a cost of some thousands of dollars. It has been remodeled, walls newly frescoed, stage appointments and scenery renewed, seats raised and curtained, and decorated in a style superior to any saloon in the City.
First appearance in New-York of
Mr. ALBERT H. FERNALD, Pianist and Balladist.
CONSOLIDATION OF TWO SEPARATE COMPANIES.
The evening's entertainment will embrace new Songs, Ballads, Duets, new Bell Music, &c.
TWO HUNDRED SILVER BELLS.
Admission 25 cents.
Reserved seats 25 cents extra.
Box Office open every day, from 8 to 5, commencing on Saturday, Dec. 21, when seats can be secured for the opening night, Monday, Dec. 23.
Doors open at 6½; to commence at 7½ o'clock.
A GRAND MATINEE will be given on SATURDAY AFTERNOON, when children will be admitted for 15 cents.
C. C. CHASE, Business Manager.
CHRISTMAS DAY, TWO
GRAND CONCERTS,
AFTERNOON, commencing at 2½ o'clock.

WONDERFUL! WONDERFUL!!
At the PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS AND ANATOMY, No. 563 Broadway, next door to Ball, Black & Co.'s, New-York. Just added to this large, superb and world-famed collection, a perfect freak of nature, a monster Child, with two heads, four legs and three arms. In conjuction with this interesting sight, there are wonders of an unsurpassable and thrilling nature. At one glance is seen 1,700 parts of the human body. The institution has been pronounced, by the many thousands who crowd to it daily, to have a truly moral tendency.
Lectures daily on interesting scientific and pathological subjects.
Open, for gentlemen only, from 10 A. M. until 10 P. M.
Admission 25 cents.

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LOCATION OF THE OLD DUSSELDORF, NO. 548 BROADWAY.
CHURCH'S NIAGARA.
NIAGARA IN WINTER, by GIGNOUX.
BIERSTADT'S ROCKY MOUNTAINS.
THE COUNTERFEIT NOTE, by HUNTINGTON.
DOVER CLIFFS, by SMATES, Sr.
CRAWFORD'S DANCING JENNY, and the DEAD PEARL DIVER, by AKERS.
In addition to more than one hundred other works of art Admission, 10 cents.
The entire profits to be give to the Society for improving the condition of the Poor. TIFFANY & CO.

ON EXHIBITION.
LANDSCAPE IN THE
WHITE MOUNTAINS.
By ALEXANDER WEST.
At GOUPIL'S, No. 772 Broadway,
Corner of 9th-st. Admission free.

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CHARLES JEFFERDS CONVICTED.

THE WALTON-MATTHEWS MURDER.

Summing up of Mr. Brady for the Defence and Mr. Waterbury for the Prosecution.

THE CASE GIVEN TO THE JURY.

Verdict--Guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

...art of Sessions—Before Judge Hoffman.
TUESDAY—SIXTH DAY.

Long before the opening of the Court every seat in the room was filled. The many shining lights in the legal profession, and the number of ladies and citizens of note present, were indicative of the large public interest in thisextraordinary trial. It was generally expected that Mr. Brady's summing up for the defence would be one of his ablest efforts, and the result proved that public estimation of that able advocate was not overrated.

Mr. Holmes for the defence, previous to the summing up, moved to strike out of the evidence all the testimony of Moore and Wm. Walton relative to the confessions of Jefferds in Walton's store. He claimed that the circumstances under which the confessions were made, were such that they could not be received. That Jefferds was both intoxicated and intimidated, and therefore not in a state of sound mind. He cited a number of cases in point—one particularly where a confession of a prisoner was ruled out on account of liquor having been given to him to induce him to confess. The defence did not ask a ruling on the question until the close of the summing up.

SUMMING UP BY MR. BRADY.

Mr. James T. Brady then proceeded with the summing up for the defence. He commenced by denying to concede that the killing of Walton and Matthews was by the same murderer. He admitted that the general impression was that the same murderer killed both, but denied that it was shown by the evidence. He suggested the theory that there were two persons engaged in the murder, and that the one who killed Mathews did it to screen the murder of Walton. He called attention in this connection to the evidence of William Walton, that he believed Pascal knew who was the murderer. He called their attention to the fact that Jefferds had already been tried and acquitted on the charge of killing Walton. He claimed that even the horrors of the State trials of England could not parallel the outrages that had been committed by the bloodhounds on Jefferds' track, in defiance of the Constitution of the State and of the United States, the Magna Charta and the bill of rights. He had been refused a "speedy trial" and kept a whole year before being brought before a jury. Mr. Brady charged upon Wm. Walton and Moore and others, a conspiracy to sacrifice Jefferds according to the forms of law. He said that the means taken to convict Jefferds were unparalleled in the history of criminal jurisprudence, and excited the disgust of every man who in his boyhood hated the sneak, the telltale, the coward and the traitor. He admitted that Jefferds, from being an estimable boy had, from bad associations and occasional intemperance, become violent, quarrelsome and boisterous when drunk. But they never knew such a character to be an assassin. An assassin must be cautious, prudent, careful and reflective. The theory of the prosecution on the trial before was that Jefferds was a wily, prudent, watchful, stealthy murderer. Now it claimed that he was a drunken, boisterous, riotous, trasclble, turbulent, ungovernable young man. On the other trial the prosecution claimed that Jefferds did the murder alone. Now, they claimed that he did it at the instigation of his mother. Mr. Brady pointed out the absurdity of the theory of the prosecution that Mrs. Walton caused Mr. Walton to be killed in order that she might inherit Mr. Walton's property, while at the same time they endeavored to prove that she was not the wife of Walton, and had no right to inherit his property—had, in fact, no motive to kill him. Mr. Brady cited a number of cases of mistaken identity, claiming that the prosecution had not only not proven that Jefferds was the murderer, but had proven that he was not. He drew particular attention to the evident knowledge of Pascal as to the identity of the murderer, and the total difference between Pascal's description of the murderer and his dress and the proven description of Charles Jefferds and his dress on the night of the murder. He analyzed the testimony to show that it was utterly impossible for Jefferds to have reached Brooklyn, at the time he was proven to be there, if he had committed the murder. He commented upon the course of the prosecution in employing the officer, Moore, as a spy, denouncing with scathing language the various means adopted to induce Jefferds to confess—getting him drunk, and taking him to houses of prostitution. He averred that the statement that Jefferds said he was acquitted and could not be tried again for the murder of Walton or Matthews, must be untrue, because both of Jefferds' counsel had warned him of his constant liability to arrest on the charge of killing Matthews; certainly if Jefferds told Moore that he was free from rearrest, he told him what was untrue. Mr. Brady compared the statements of the five witnesses to Jefferds' alleged confessions in Walton's store, showing that no two witnesses agreed as to Jefferds' language; he also called attention to the evidence that the pistol with which Moore feared Jefferds was to shoot Wm. Walton, was really not loaded, according to Moore's own confession; also, to the allegation of Moore, that Jefferds offered him $5,000 to help him go and shoot William Walton. Was it reasonable that Charles would ask Moore to help him commit a murder when, according to Moore's story, Charles refused to let him take any part in it? What possible motive could Jefferds have had to take a witness with him? If Charles had made the alleged confession to Walton in the presence of Moore, he must have made the following untrue statements:

1. That he did not care who knew he murdered Walton.
2. That he tried to catch Walton when he fell, and Pascal told him to run.
3. That his mother was to give him $2,000 for killing Walton.
4. That if he should hang his mother would have to hang.
5. That he could make $10,000 by going to Walton's.
6. That Mr. Hall had promised to return his pistol.

If Moore was to be believed, Jefferds told all those lies while making his confession.

Mr. Brady's conclusion as to the confessions was, that they were a mass of incoherent drunken ravings.

Mr. Brady's speech occupied nearly five hours and was almost dispassionate in the calm survey of the facts and searching analysis of the evidence. In this regard it was one of his finest efforts. There was, however, some disappointment on account of the absence of denunciation of the Walton family and of rhetorical flights that were expected.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The attendance at the afternoon session was visibly diminished, but nearly every seat was filled.

Mr. Waterbury proceeded with the summing up for the prosecution. His speech occupied nearly two hours, and was an able and ingenious analysis of the evidence, and the theories of the prosecution and defence. It was listened to with profound attention, and at its close, the Recorder proceeded to deliver the charge.

THE RECORDER'S CHARGE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY: The trial of Charles Jefferds, one of the most remarkable in the annals of criminal jurisprudence, is about drawing to a close. For nearly five days, you have listened with the greatest patience, to the amplest details of evidence for and against the prisoner at the bar. Counsel, than whom none abler is known to the State, have defended him with all the power of the most finished logic and eloquence, and the prosecution, conducted with learning and ability, has, with great force, brought an array of facts in evidence against him.

It remains for me simply to state those facts as they have been presented, the responsibility of deciding upon them remains with you. If you are satisfied by them that the prisoner is guilty of the offence charged against him you must bring in your verdict accordingly, and consign him to the punishment he deserves. If you are not so satisfied—if any reasonable doubt should linger in your minds, you must give to the prisoner the benefit of that doubt and acquit him beyond the power of any earthly tribunal to again arraign him for the same offence.

The learned Judge here stated the main fact of the murder of John W. Matthews, in this City, on the night of the 30th of June, 1859, the circumstances connected with which deed involved an inquiry relative to another murder—that of John Walton—and in so doing, for the purpose of his charge, assumed, as a fact for the Jury to determine, that the man who shot Matthews also shot Walton. It would be for the Jury to decide whether the man who killed Matthews was guilty of murder.

By the act of 1860 the Legislature subdivided murder into two degrees. To quote the second section of that act, "All murder which shall be perpetrated by means of poison, or by lying in wait, or by any other kind of willful, deliberate and premeditated killing, or which shall be committed in the perpetration or the attempt to perpetrate any arson, rape, robbery or burglary, or in any attempt to escape from imprisonment, shall be deemed murder in the first degree, and all other kinds of murder shall be deemed murder of the second degree."

With this definition before them the Jury had to decide whether the murder here committed, if any, was murder of the first or of the second degree. Whoever killed John Walton was guilty of that crime in the first degree since there was lying in wait and evident premeditation, two essential and conclusive elements of the higher grade of the offence. As to the killing of Matthews, the jury must, upon the evidence as offered conclude whether it was willful and premeditated. When a man pursued turns upon his pursuer and willfully and deliberately kills him, that is murder in the first degree.

If the intent was not to kill but merely to maim or harm the pursuer, the crime, if this fact could be distinctly shown, is onlyof the seconddegree. But, in such a case the law presumes the intent to have been the infliction of death—for, if a man places a pistol to the breast of another and deliberately fires, and the firing destroys life, there is no way by which the act is to be distinguished from murder in the first degree.

The Court did not propose to dilate upon the facts of the case; they had been sufficiently repeated and examined. He would merely replace them in rapid review in connection with those portions of the law by which they were to be judged as links in the chain of evidence. The latter was usually divided into what was ordinarily known as circumstantial evidence and the positive evidence of confessions, admissions, &c. Circumstantial evidence is often defective, and unreliable—the annals of the law teem with proofs of this, and in considering it, the Jury must regard it only where it is so strong as to exclude every other hypothesis than that of guilt, and to banish every reasonable doubt. Circumstances may lie, and so may the witness on the stand, but, nevertheless, the evidence of circumstances is not therefore to be disregarded, where it forms a connected and coherent chain of testimony, nor is every living witness to be discredited because some witnesses have been unreliable.

Secondly—The evidence of confessions and admissions was to be carefully scrutinized by the jury, who were to weigh the time of such confessions, the circumstances surrounding them, and the state of mind of the party making them at the moment of so doing.

The Court, having impressively stated the foregoing provisions of the law of testimony, proceeded to briefly state the main facts of the case. The killing or murder of John Walton took place near midnight, on the 30th of June, 1860, at the corner of Fourth-avenue and Eighteenth-street. The two men, John Walton and John W. Matthews, were coming from the drug store on the corner, the drug store being still open. As they advanced, a man, partly concealed behind a tree, steps out into the open moonlight, and placing a pistol to the head of John Walton, fires, kills him, and he dies. The jury must for themselves decide whether this was the act of a cool, calculating, scheming and deliberate assassin, who had planned the whole proceeding on the act of a bold, daring, desperate, reckless man, acting on the impulse of the moment. In either case, the deliberation of a moment was sufficient to render the offence a murder. The circumstances surrounding the deed, go to show that he perpetrator was familiar with the habits of Walton, who went home on Thursday between 9 and 10 P. M., and on Saturday between 11 and 12 P. M., and it was on Saturday night that he was killed. The murderer immediately after he had fired, ran down Fourth-avenue to Seventeenth-street, and along Seventeenth to Irving-place, and when there, turned and fired at his pursuer, John W. Matthews, who fell and died. The culprit then made his way through Irving-place to Sixteenth-street, and was seen by the witness, Mary Davis, to jump over the fence at No. 37, and pass under the steps. The cars on Fourth-avenue can be seen from that point, and the witness heard them coming when the man who had gone under the steps came out and walked briskly toward the avenue. That was the last seen of him by anyone who saw the murder and the pursuit. The Court proceeded to state the circumstances attending the movements of Walton and Jefferds during the period of time immediately preceding the murder. Jefferds' return to the City, his boarding in Brooklyn, his trip to the country, and then his reappearance in this vicinity, were dwelt upon at some length. The testimony of numerous witnesses fixed the time when the pistol firing was heard and the fugitive seen on Seventeenth-street—Pascall, Lee, Hussell, Foster and others—all agreed within a few minutes of 11½ P. M., and it became a question for the jury to determine whether the prisoner, if he were the murderer, could have reached his hotel in Brooklyn from such a distance by 12½ o'clock, the hour at which he was seen entering there. was it to revenge his own wrongs or the wrongs of somebody else that the murderer committed the deed? It might have been the work of a man hired to do the deed, for there were men in all cities. It was said, who could be hired to do anything. But, would such a man be likely to do it under such circumstances? Then comes the question who could have had a motive for the murder? Certain threats have been testified to as having been made by the prisoner at a remote period—February, 1859. If it would appear that the aggravation for those threats had been heightened rather than allayed, the threats would be a question for the jury to consider. However remote the threats, if the killing took place subsequently, the threats were proper evidence to be considered. It appears that Jefferds did make threats in the presence of Dr. Gunn, and to Mary Walton, although it appears that after that he lived at Mr. Walton's house and associated with his daughter. But there was a difficulty between Mr. and Mrs. Walton growing out of the divorce suit, and the stigma cast upon Mrs. Walton in the public papers, causing a separation and hostile feelings between Mr. and Mrs. Walton, and Mrs. Walton was arrested for taking things from her own house, she saying that it was "John Walton's work." The state of feeling between Jefferds and Mr. Walton was therefore of greater aggravation than in February, 1859. It is was a question for the jury whether Jefferds had a revengeful feeling against Walton, the deceased. It is probable that Mrs. Walton last saw her son on the Sunday before the murder. It should be recollected that about the latter part of April the separation occurred, and Jefferds bought a pistol like that with which the murder was committed on April 30. Yet, that pistol had not been seen by any one in his possession, and the only evidence in the case of any pistol like it was that of Mrs. Walton, that Mr. Walton had one like it. That the pistol found in the yard corner of Sixteenth-street and Irving-place was the one with which the two men were shot seemed to be beyond doubt. Whether that was the same pistol that Jefferds bought was for the jury to determine.

Mrs. Walton had necessarily become more and more mixed up in this affair. On the night of the murder she was at the house of Mr. Moss, in Twenty-fifth-street, nearly opposite the house where Walton was. The jury were to consider the questions of the clothing of the murderer and the prisoner; the inability or ability of the prisoner to have committed the murder and reached Brooklyn at the time he did without being flushed. They were to consider whether the murderer took the down-car, which left the railroad depôt at 11:30, or whether he was the same man seen under the stoop by Mary Ann Daires, was for the jury to consider. The Recorder reviewed the conduct of the prisoner in Brooklyn, on the morning after the murder; his talking about murder; his speaking of his name having been alluded to in one of the newspaper accounts of the murder, when such was not the fact; his concealing his name on the pretence that he feard arrest; a's conversation with Mr. Betts, and finally giving himself up. All these acts of the prisoner were questions for the jury to consider. If, after the consideration of all these facts, they had any reasonable doubt of the guilt of the prisoner, next came the question of confessions. They must always have in view the truth of the confessions. As, for instance, if Jefferds should confess that he committed the murder, and it was proven that he was in Albany, the confessions could not be used against him. The confessions must be subjected to the test of plausibility or possibility. He had been asked to charge that the admissions of a man when intoxicated are not entitled to be received in evidence. That he did not regard as sound law. In the case cited, where the officer gave the prisoner two glasses of gin under a promise to confess, the case was entirely different; the prisoner was actually in the custody and control of the officer. But where confessions were made voluntarily—either by a drunken or sober man—so long as they were not made under intimidation or threat, they were admissible. Of course, when so admitted, it was a question for the jury how far they were entitled to credit, and the circumstances under which they were made were a matter for consideration. The jury must decide how much weight was to be given to them. As to the question how the confessions were obtained—by the instrumentality of a detective or spy—that was a moral question with which this had nothing to do; some men would think that criminals should be pursued and brought to justice by any manner of means, while other men thought that criminals should be treated tenderly and only pursued by open, honorable, and most polite means. The question for them to consider was simply, was the confession true? If it is true, it is of no consequence whether the prisoner was drunk or sober when he made it. The sole question for the jury is, was the confession true—of course bearing in mind all the other probabilities of the case—was the confession on Broadway to Moore true? Was the confession in Walton's store, as sworn to by a number of witnesses, true? He had no doubt that Jefferds was drunk when he made the confession in Walton's store was drunk. No sober man would have made such a confession. As to whether the testimony of the witness Moore had been shaken by the contradictions of the witnesses, Mrs. Bennett and Miss Lascelle, and whether, from the character of those female witnesses, they were to be believed, those were questions for the jury to consider. In conclusion, he charged them to review the evidence fairly and impartially, and if they believed the accused to be guilty, to convict him; and if innocent, to acquit him.

Mr. Brady desired the Court to charge that there was no evidence that the swellings in Jefferd's groin were produced by violent exercise, and the Court so charged.

Mr. Holmes asked the Court to charge that if the murderer left the scene of the last murder at 11:33, and was detained in the area 8 minutes, as sworn to by Mary Ann Davis, and got on the car at 11:46, and took twenty-eight minutes to get to the City Hall, the prisoner, if he was the murderer, had only one minute to get to Brooklyn.

The Court thought that on that point the charge had been explicit.

Mr. Holmes repeated his request. The Court thought that Mary Ann Davis had not sworn that the man had remained under the area eight minutes, and upon referring to the notes so decided.

Mr. Holmes—How much does her testimony make, Sir?

The Court—About two pages of my notes, and I write four words on a line.

Mr. Holmes—The jury can determine how long the witness was on the stand; she said the man staid under the stoop as long as she had been on the stand.

The Court—Certainly, that is a question for the jury. I do not understand it to be a matter of law.

The delivery of the charge occupied over an hour, and at its close, at about 9 o'clock, the jury retired for deliberation, refreshments being provided for them in an adjoining room. Nearly all the spectators awaited the rendition of the verdict.

THE VERDICT.

The Jury having retired at 9¼ o'clock, very unexpectedly reappeared at half-past ten. The period of their absence was occupied by the inmates of the Court-room in varied conversation, no one apparently expecting a very early verdict. Consequently, when the stir of feet at the outer door, and the voice of the crier requesting the throng to make way in the passage, were heard there was much sensation. As the jury entered, Mr. Brady, of counsel for the defence, was observed to approach his client and speak to him in a low tone. It was evident that he regarded the speedy return as very unfavorable to his case. Young Jefferds retained his composure, the only change perceptible in his appearance being a slight flush that suffused his countenance. As the Clerk of the Court requested the jury to rise, the prisoner sprang to his feet with a suddenness of motion almost convulsive.

When the formula, "Gentlemen of the jury, look upon the prisoner!—Prisoner, look upon the jury!" was pronounced, every breath in the audience was hushed, but Jefferds returned the gaze of those who were about to condemn him to death with unflinching steadiness. Not a muscle of his face quivered, nor did his eye cower for a second.

As the foreman, on the solemn demand for the verdict, responded in a clear, firm voice, with the fatal answer, "Guilty," the eye of the prisoner flashed as his color almost imperceptibly deepened. There was still a moment of profound suspense, forthe degree of guilt had not yet been declared. It soon came, however, for to the inquiry of the Court, the foreman of the Jury firmly replied, "Guilty of murder in the first degree."

At this, Jefferds slowly bowed his head, and then instantly resuming an attitude perfectly erect and self-possessed, with a countenance that exhibited no particular emotion, said, as he fixed his gaze upon the Jury, "Gentlemen, you have convicted an innocent man!" after a moment of solemn silence, the Court directed the prisoner to be remanded, but for some time the counsel and friends of the culprit gathered around him with such condolence as they could offer, while the spectators and officials of the Court slowly withdrew. Thus terminated a scene which singularly contrasted with the universal preparations that in every other part of the City were enlivening the happy hours of Christmas Eve.

Amusements.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—M. HERRMANN, the conjuror, commenced a short season at this establishment on Monday last. It is, we think, more suitable for his entertainment—which gains by proximity to the operator—than the Academy of Music, where sleight-of-hand became a mere mummery of perspective. In point of decoration, too, Niblo's Garden will suffer nothing by comparison with the up-town temple of the Muses. During the rather protracted recess which it has enjoyed, the painters and decorators have been busy with their brushes and hangings; the upholsterers, too, have revolutionized the benches and seats, turning them into arm chairs, after the Academy fashion, but with more neatness. Nothing can well be brighter or more beautiful than the present appearance of the house. The ornamentation is in simple good taste, and thoroughly well done. On Monday night, when the winds howled outside, and the snow, and the sleet, and the slush combined to make the pursuit of amusement a very serious undertaking, it was like stepping into fairy-land to find oneself in its shining corridors, and Mr. HERRMANN's magic did not tend to dispel the impression. The great conjuror performed some of his best tricks, and was received with the usual favor by an audience not over-crowded, but better than could have been expected under the circumstances. No nicer Christmas treat could have been provided for the young folk than a visit to the Garden of Magic.

NIBLO'S SALOON.—The PEAK family, a talented combination of adult and juvenile vocalists, harpists and bell-ringers, commenced a season at this charming little place on Monday evening. The saloon is no longer what it used to be, but has been converted into a pretty little theatre with a stage, parquette and dress circle. The seating arrangement is unusually good, enabling the visitor to select a place on any bench without incommoding others. The PEAK family are excellent in their way, and will, we doubt not, succeed in establishing their entertainment.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE.—It may be stated, without offence to the dramatists employed by Miss LAURA KEENE, that there are few men connected with the stage or literature who can hope to improve on CHARLES DICKENS, and that the task of attempting it is at least a dangerous one, even when undertaken by the steadiest skilled hand. The first of two novelties produced here last night, and called "Little Tom," was an indiscreet striving after this impossible result. The loveliest fiction of genial Christmas charity and good brotherhood ever written—the *Christmas Carol* of CHARLES DICKENS—has been seized by ruthless hands, and converted into a drama, which, for incoherence and dullness, is without a peer. Even the nomenclature of DICKENS has been meddled with, and, instead of those cheery names which we all bear in our memory is substituted a vile conglomeration from the directory. The dramatist claims that the piece is derived exclusively from DICKENS, but he must surely underestimate the intelligence of his audience in making such a statement. He has befouled the "Carol" and purloined one or two characters from other works. Here the record ends, for audacity is his only merit. He has not succeeded in making a good play, or bestowing a decent part on any one of the artists who struggle beneath his weight of words. There is a dozen good dramatic versions of the "Christmas Carol"—one of them approved by Mr. DICKENS himself; this is the only bad one we have ever witnessed. It is entitled to this statement, but to no word of criticism.

The second of Miss KEENE's novelties is a burletta on the familiar subject of "Robinson Crusoe." It contains a few good jokes, and is the occasion of much good scenery and many picturesque dresses, but the laughs were few and far between, and the audience began to separate before the final tableau. We are sorry we can say no more.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

At the Brooklyn Navy-yard yesterday, the United States steamer *Crusader* and the bark *Restless* were put into commission at 1 o'clock. The *Crusader* carries an armament of ten 32-pounders, a crew of about 200 men, and a Sergeant's guard of marines. The *Restless* has four 32-pounders and a crew of 60 men.

The following are the official lists of their officers:

Crusader—Lieutenant in command, A. C. RHEM; Acting Master and Executive Officer, D. S. Collins; Acting Masters, W. D. Uroen and J. D. Ingraham; Acting Third Assistant Engineers, F. Swasey and J. Loyd; Master's Mates, A. Buhner, G. W. Nelson and H. Parsons.

Restless—Acting Volunteer Lieutenant in command, E. CONROY; Acting Master and Executive Officer, C. Smith; Acting Master's Mates, H. Easore, C. G. Tucker and J. W. Mackie.

The Surgeons and Paymasters have not yet been appointed to the above vessels.

The steamer *Patomska* has gone down off the Battery, to receive her powder; also, the gunboat *Chippewa*.

To-day being Christmas Day, all the workmen who can possibly be spared will be liberated from the Brooklyn Navy-yard. The exigencies of the service, however, will not allow an entire suspension of work. For some time past a gang of men have had to work on Sundays even. The day will also be observed at the military posts in the harbor. The men will be exempt from drill and police duties, and will feast on poultry and beer. A party was sent from Fort Hamilton to the City, yesterday, to purchase turkeys and geese.

Counterfeiters Abroad.

SIX ARRESTS LAST EVENING FOR PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY.

An attempt was made, last evening, to flood the City with counterfeit money. The plan was to commence operations simultaneously in different parts of the City, by passing off the spurious bills upon the merchants and shopkeepers who kept open late on Christmas Eve. Fortunately, the telegraph was brought in requisition, the intelligence immediately circulated from one station-house to another throughout the City, and policemen were busy in going from store to store, notifying the merchants of the attempted fraud. Six arrests were made up to 10½ o'clock—two in the Fifth Ward, Two in the Third, and two others further up town. The counterfeits were upon various banks, and of different denominations. The principal bills passed or offered were $10 bills upon the Commercial Bank of Bristol, R. I., $3s on the Central Bank of Troy, $5s on the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, $2s on the Merchants' Bank of Lowell, Mass., and $1s on the Merchants' Bank of New-Haven, Conn. The police believe that it was a desperate attempt of a well-organized gang of counterfeiters to deceive the public at a time when there would be the least probability of detection.

INTELLIGENCE FROM MISSOURI.

The Damage to the North Missouri Railroad.

WARRENTOWN, Mo., Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The damage to the North Missouri railroad may be summed up as follows: Bridges at Sturgeon, Centralia, Mexico, Jeffstown and Warrentown, burned; also, one station and perhaps twenty cars, from 50 to 60 culverts, large and small; three or four water stations, 10,000 ties, from 200 to 300 telegraph poles, and five miles of iron destroyed, and ten miles of wire rendered useless.

Two trains, one having eight car loads of hogs and several cars of hemp and two cars of merchandise, are in the possession of the rebels. Four engines are lying where they can be seized by them.

Some of the men who belonged to the trains have arrived here, from whom I learn that the persons who did the damage are yet encamped along the road—about 500 being at High Hill, and other bodies at or near Martinsburgh, Mexico, Centralia, Sturgeon, and Allan. At Centralia they went within half a mile of the camp of the Berge Sharpshooters and destroyed a bridge and water station. Two freight trains were captured within four miles of the camp of a detachment of the same force.

At Renick the work was directed by practical railroad men, and the right course was always taken to make the destruction complete. Where the track was taken up the rails were removed, the ties gathered in piles and set on fire, and the rails thrown across the pile, so that when the centre of the rails became heated, the weight of the cold ends bent them so that as to render them useless.

In destroying the bridges, the fires were kindled around the corners, where they would soon throw the bridge down, and the tressel-guides which spanned the open culverts were burned, as were also the frames on which the water-tanks stood usually.

The houses of railroad men, and of all Union men in the vicinity of the road, were surrounded, and the inhabitants assured that no harm was intended them while they remained in-doors.

We hear of scarcely any pillage or any other outrage, beyond the destruction of the road and telegraph line.

The damage to the road cannot fall short of $300,000, and at least one month will be required to repair it so that trains can pass.

REPORTS FROM WARRENTON.

WARRENTON, Mo., Tuesday, Dec. 24.

By arrivals from Mexico we learn that the bridge over Salt River, which is the largest and most costly on the road, except that at Perrigue, which the rebels previously spared on Friday night, was entirely destroyed on Sunday night. The station-house at Jacksonville was also burned, together with four or five cars. The repairs progress rapidly here. The bridge is repaired, and the culverts between here and Jonesburgh, and the track at that place will be tomorrow, if the men are not interrupted, and the repairs of the telegraph line keep pace with those of the road.

NATIONAL OPERATIONS AT LEXINGTON.

ST. LOUIS, Monday, Dec. 23.

Dispatches received at headquarters say that the command sent to Lexington by Gen. POPE burned two ferry-boats and a foundry at that place, and took two Captains, one Lieutenant, four men and several horses.

REPORTS FROM OTTERVILLE.

OTTERVILLE, Mo., Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The cavalry which Gen. POPE sent to Lexington have returned. In addition to the two ferry-boats and the rebel foundry which they burned, and the rebel officer and privates captured, previously reported, they killed the notorious Arkansas ROBINSON, and drove every band of rebels from the county for miles on either side of the route. They report the county quit of the rebels.

A FRIGHT IN PRICE'S CAMP.

JEFFERSON CITY, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

A gentleman, who has been with the Rebel army several weeks, arrived here to-day, and reports that on Thursday last, PRICE's camp at Osceola was thrown into confusion by the news taht the Nationals were upon them. They beat a hasty retreat; and when last heard from were at Hammonsville, hurrying South.

INTELLIGENCE FROM KENTUCKY.

UNEXPECTED COURSE OF GOV. MAGOFFIN

CINCINNATI, Monday, Dec. 23.

The *Commercial* has a dispatch from Frankfort, Ky., saying that Hon. W. C. ANDERSON, formerly Member of Congress, died, to-day.

Gov. MAGOFFIN, contrary to expectations, had approved of all thebills presented to him.

There was no further news from Somerset.

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

ATCHISON, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Orders have been given to the several agents of the Overland Company to take no more express freight from any source, until further orders. This is in consequence of the Company having been fined by the Government for reported neglect of mail matter.

A THOUSAND REBEL PRISONERS AT ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

About a thousand of the rebel prisoners taken by Gen. POPE, arrived here late last night, and were allowed to remain in the cars until this morning, when they were escorted by their capturers, under Col. DAVIS, to Dr. MCDOWELL's Medical College, where they will be taken care of for the present.

MASON AND SLIDELL.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Nothing is known in Boston in regard to Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL's leaving in the *Europa* to-morrow, and the rumor to that effect is doubtless unfounded.

MONEY REFUNDED BY GOVERNMENT.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Comptroller DENNISON has returned from Washington, having secured from the Secretary of the Treasury a return of forty per cent. of the money advanced by the State for the expenses of the war. The sum thus received by the State is one million one hundred and thirteen thousand dollars.

THE TENTH NEW-YORK VOLUNTEER CAVALRY.

ELMIRA, (N. Y.,) Dec. 24.

The Tenth New-York Volunteer Cavalry, Col. C. LEMMON, left Elmira at 11 o'clock this forenoon for Gettysburg, Pa.

GOVERNMENT COTTON FROM PORT ROYAL.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The brig *Ellen P. Stewart* arrived here to-day from Port Royal, with 290 bales of Sea Island cotton belonging to the Government.

PRIVATEERS SENT TO FORT LAFAYETTE.

The sixteen privateers of the *Royal Yacht* captured off Galveston, and brought home by the United States steamship *Connecticut*, were yesterday transferred from the Toombs and House of Detention to Fort Lafayette.

Clothing for the National Prisoners.

NEW-YORK, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Thanking you for your kind notice of some days since, saying that contributions of clothing for prisoners of war at Richmond, would be received and forwarded by us, we beg now to say that we judge by the tenor of the inclosed letter that further supplies of clothing are not needed, as the Government appears to be alive to the sufferings of those in captivity.

We acknowledge the receipt of some liberal parcels of clothing and blankets, and of some small sums in money, which will be duly sent forward.

H. F. SPAULDING,
F. M. JONES.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,
FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Dec. 22, 1861.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 20th inst. was received this morning, and Gen. WOOL has desired me to say in reply, that the Government has been sending, and will continue to send, at public expense, clothing contributed by private persons for the use of our prisoners at the South. The General would, however, remark that large quantities of clothing, furnished both by the Government and by private individuals, have recently been forwarded to the South, and that to-morrow he will probably send on some two thousand suits, in addition to those already in use by the prisoners. I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

WILLIAM JAY, A. D. C.

Messrs. HENRY F. SPAULDING and F. M. JONES.

News from New-Mexico—Arrival of the Santa Fe Mail.

KANSAS CITY, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The Santa Fé mail, with dates to the 9th inst., has arrived.

The Territorial Legislature met on the 2d, and on the 4th Gov. CONNOLLY read his annual Message to the joint session of both Houses. The Governor recommends all Indian tribes to be placed on reservation on very strict regulations, as the only way to prevent the constant recurrence of troubles with them. He advises a thorough revision of all territorial laws, and says many of the provisions of the law for the protection of slave property in New-Mexico are unnecessarily severe and vigorous, and recommends that they be repealed. In relation to the National strife he says: I am proud to say that my loyal political fellow-citizens of New-Mexico have manfully responded to their country's call, and contributions, more than a fair proportion to the Union. The cause is flattering from the fact that when the strife began, and for some time after it had been in progress, it was presumed by the principal movers of the scheme, that our Territory would join them in their attempt to pull down the pillars of free government and rejoicing with them in the midst of the wreck and desolation produced by their evil machinations. This patriotic outpouring of the people has removed all cause of suspicion which may have been excited in the minds of our countrymen in the loyal States in reference to the position we occupy in connection with the war. A more positive demonstration to our beloved institutions cannot be given than that which New-Mexico had in this manner shown; and, be it for weal or for woe, this is the position she will occupy to the end.

An Indian force still remained about Fort Fillmore, but they have not ventured to come north of the Jornada. I am glad to say, however, that our army now in the field is amply sufficient, not only for the protection of our people north of that district, but to expel the invaders from our limits. This will be done as soon as supplies and transportation can be accumulated at Fort Craig, in quantities sufficient to answer the demands of the army destined for operation in that quarter. The military commander has made the same wise and judicious distribution of the troops which remain, for the protection of our frontiers during the absence of the forces employed in the recapture of the forts so disgracefully surrendered into the hands of the enemies of our Government.

The Weather at Albany—Condition of the River, etc.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The steamboat *Isaac Newton* left for New-York this morning, and the *Constitution* and the Newburgh boat followed her.

The weather is very cold, and the river is full of snow and ice.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 24—P. M.

The steamboat *Isaac Newton*, heavily loaded, is on Castleton Bar. She will be lightered off.

The steamboat *New World* passed Hudson, on her way up, at 7 o'clock this morning.

The steamboat *E. Corning, Jr.*, arrived at noon today. She reports heavy ice below Castleton.

Fire in Lee, Mass.

STOCKBRIDGE, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

St. George's Church, (Episcopal,) of Lee, was totally destroyed by fire last night, about 12 o'clock. Insured for $4,000.

Public Sentiment Concerning the New-York Herald.

At a meeting of passengers held in the saloon of the steamship *City of Washington*, Dec. 19, 1861, JOHN H. TOBITT, of New-York, being called to the Chair, the following paper was adopted as expressing the unanimous sentiment, not only of the Americans who signed it, but also the rest of the passengers, who were not yet invested with American citizenship:

The undersigned, in returning to their several homes in America, feel called upon to say a few words to their countrymen respecting the position of the New-York *Herald* abroad, and the quotations from it which are there made, as embodiments of American sentiment.

While it has been the happy experience of most of us to note a deep and sincere feeling of regret at our present unfortunate conflict, we have at the same time learned that the bombastic insults and absurd threats of the paper alluded to, have been regarded as the actual sentiments of the people at large; and when we have said again and again portrayed the position and character of that journal, we have heard the uniform reply, "Then why not disavow such principles?"

Believing, therefore, that the course pursued by the New-York *Herald* not only grossly belies American feeling, but that it is at the present crisis effecting more to complicate our National troubles than any other agency, we do hereby earnestly beg our fellow-countrymen—and New-Yorkers particularly—to DISAVOW ITS AUTHORITY, by public meeting or otherwise, without further delay.

JOHN H. TOBITT, C. Y. SWAN, M. D.,
THOS. H. VAN TASSEL, W. H. WALMSLEY,
B. B. DALY, G. W. PITCHER,
F. BERTHOND, JOHN B. LOWE,
FRANCIS WHITELEY, and others.

Arrivals in the City.

Hon. G. H. Thacher, of Albany; Hon. D. W. Gooch, of New-York; Hon. G. W. Stitt, of New-Jersey, Asst. Adjt.-Gen. Ord. U. S. Army; Capt. R. F. Loper, of Philadelphia; L. D. Ames, of the Navy; Lieut.-Col. Blake, Lieut. McKee, Lieut. M. Fuller, Lieut. E. M. Baker, and Q. H. Kellogg, of the First California Cavalry, are at the Astor House.

Hon. E. B. Washburn, of Illinois; Hon. A. L. Dawes, of Massachusetts; Hon. E. H. Rollins, of New-Hampshire; Hon. E. Buil, of Ohio; Dr. Burnham, of Lowell; Hon. T. T. Davis, of Syracuse; J. W. Tinkham, of the U. S. Navy; Capt. Stone, of the steamer *Arabia*; and G. A. Prince, of Buffalo, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Hon. C. B. Sedgwick, of Syracuse; Hon. John Sherman and J. G. Camp, of Ohio; C. W. Baldwin and family, of San Francisco; Major W. Z. Lathrop and Capt. T. A. Maurice, of the First Missouri Light Artillery; J. T. Field and lady, of Boston; Dr. Adams, of New-York; and W. Gravenhorst, of Bremen, are at the Fifth-avenue Hotel.

Senator Benjamin Hale, of California; Capt. Geo. D. Ruggles, of the U. S. Army; and Henry Tiffany and George Tiffany, of Baltimore, are at the New-York Hotel.

Gen. Cuyler Van Vechten, of Albany; Col. H. M. Day, of Chicago; Col. Geo. Andrews and Col. Beale, of the U. S. Army; W. Stark, of New-Hampshire; Col. Matthewson, of Washington, and G. G. Hall, of Oregon, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Hon. Geo. Scnnable, of Pennsylvania, and P. P. G. Hull and lady, of the Lower Potomac, are at the Everett House.

How the English Hate Bragging.

From the London Punch.

There is something, after all, in being an Englishman. Mr. John Bull can now go to France, Belgium, Holland, (and Denmark and Sweden will very shortly follow,) without being called upon to produce his passport. There is no countryman in the world who can make a similar boast. It is true we pay a heavy income-tax, but then we have the option of going to other countries, and no impediments are thrown in our way. We avail ourselves of the privilege pretty often, but then it is always with renewed pleasure that we come back to the old country again. England is the freest country in the world: the freest to come to, the freest to go from, and the freest to live in; and the worst we wish other countries is for them to be as free we are. We hate bragging, and that is the reason we never brag. The sun in shining does not brag about it, nor do we; we simply are the greatest people in the world because we cannot help it.

☞ The people of the Church of the Ascension give the children of the Five Points House of Industry their usual Christmas dinner to-day at 2 o'clock.

BROOKLYN NEWS.

CHRISTMAS.—The approach of Christmas has brought with it all the usual preparations for the due observance of all such occasions; and, to judge from the number of purchasers hovering about the different bazaars where Christmas